

Kathmandu to Delhi Adventure - ANKD

15 days: Kathmandu to Delhi

What's Included

- Your G for Good Moment: Sisterhood of Survivors Project, Pokhara
- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Local Living Moment: Barauli Community Guesthouse Stay, Royal Chitwan National Park
- Kathmandu orientation walk
- Swayambhunath (Monkey Temple) visit
- Sarangkot sunrise excursion
- Chitwan National Park jeep safari
- Buddha's birthplace visit
- Varanasi orientation walk along the ghats and old city
- Ganges River boat trips at sunrise and sunset, including candle flower ceremony
- Orchha Palace complex visit
- Agra Fort entrance and guided tour
- Taj Mahal entrance
- Amber Fort and Hawa Mahal tour
- India Gate and Connaught Place visit
- Border crossing support
- · All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing April 4th, 2017 and onwards

Itinerary Notes

Want to experience the sights and sounds of Holi? Make sure you're in India on March 21, 2019 or March 10, 2020 for the nation's most colourful festival.

Itinerary

NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1 Kathmandu

Arrive at any time.

To explore more of Kathmandu, we recommend booking a prenight to enjoy the highlights which include world-famous Durbar Square, the King's Palace, the burning ghats at Pashupatinath and the Boudhanath Stupa.

Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Day 2 Kathmandu/Pokhara

Get to know the beautiful city of Kathmandu. Opt to get up close to the world's highest mountain by taking an Everest Flight. Later, drive to Pokhara.

Kathmandu Orientation Walk Kathmandu1h

Get a taste of this lively capital city, which is fascinating at every turn.

Swayambhunath Temple Visit

Kathmandu

Visit Swayambhunath Buddhist temple and Unesco World Heritage Site, the most ancient and enigmatic of all the holy shrines in Kathmandu. Explore the structure and be sure to check out the Buddha's eyes painted on each side of the Stupa. The site is also known as the monkey temple, for the vast amount of creatures who call the complex home.

Private Vehicle

Kathmandu – Pokhara8h-9h Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Optional Activities - Day 2 Everest Flight

Mount Everest - Kathmandu

Get a close look at awesome Mt. Everest, the highest mountain in the world, without having to do any climbing; this one-hour plane tour will give you an unforgettable experience.

Day 3 Pokhara

Visit nearby Sarangkot for a sunrise walk with breathtaking views of the Annapurnas. Visit the Sisterhood of Survivors Project, a grassroots organization that trains survivors of human-trafficking and other at-risk women to become certified paralegals. Meet some beneficiaries of the program and learn how to make Nepalese momos (dumplings) with some of the women before enjoying an authentic local lunch. Explore Pokhara with some free time in the afternoon.

Travel out to Sarangkot for a spectacular sunrise over the surrounding mountains (weather permitting). The walk back down through farms and forest to Pokhara is wonderful and takes between 2-2.5 hours.

Pokhara has several beautiful lakes and offers stunning panoramic views of Himalayan peaks. With free time, opt to relax in a café, hire a boat and float around the lake, or shop for Nepali and Tibetan souvenirs in the endless stalls and shops.

Opt to go paragliding over Pokhara and soak in the views by pre-booking the Paragliding in Pokhara extra when booking your tour.

Sarangkot Sunrise Walk

Sarangkot - Pokhara2h-3h

Experience a spectacular sunrise view of the surrounding the Annapurna Himalayas. Enjoy the 2.5 hour walk back down through lush farms and forests.

Your G for Good Moment: Sisterhood of Survivors Project

Visit this G Adventures-supported grassroots organization that is helping to support rehabilitated survivors of human-trafficking and other at-risk women. SASANE, our project partners, trains once vulnerable women to be certified paralegals, so that they are the first point of contact for other women coming out of abuse. G Adventures has helped catalyze a hospitality program for these women to be reintegrated into a dignified work environment. The survivors will teach you how to make momos (traditional dumplings) and then enjoy a Nepali lunch together. This program helps support SASANE's trafficking prevention and re-integration programs across Nepal.

Free Time

Pokhara Afternoon Enjoy some free time.

Optional Activities - Day 3 Gorkha Museum Visit

Sarangkot30m-1h 200NPR per person Learn about the renowned Gurkha soldiers, famous for their bravery.

World Peace Pagoda Excursion

Sarangkot2h-3h 4km 1000-1500NPR per group Walk up to the World Peace Pagoda, which was constructed by Buddhist monks. Enjoy the structure and the beautiful view around it.

Bike Rental

Rent a bike from a local shop and head out to explore.

Meals included: Lunch

Day 4 Pokhara/Royal Chitwan National Park

Travel to this UNESCO World Heritage Site and enjoy an overnight homestay with the indigenous Tharu community. Experience their culture through dance and song, along with a traditional meal. Opt to go on a cycling excursion through the area.

Travel through a belt of marshy grasslands, savannas, and forests at the base of the Himalayas. The region is home to rhinos, elephants, Bengal tigers, bears and leopards. In the evening, meet the local Tharu community and discover their culture.

Private Vehicle

Pokhara – Royal Chitwan National Park4h-5h Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Your Local Living Moment: Barauli Community Guesthouse Stay

Enjoy the hospitality of the Tharu, an indigenous community from the Teral belt of Nepal who live in ecofriendly homes. Experience their unique culture through dances, songs, and a delicious traditional meal. Stay on the property in private guesthouses that resemble traditional village architecture of the local Tharu people. Enjoy modern conveniences like running water, comfortable beds, and mosquito nets. The 14 cottages are each named after the local woman that manages the property. There are also tended gardens and small patches of farmland in the village compound with animals tethered inside the pastures.

Any meals will be eaten in the communal dining hall and the local women will serve you food that has been sourced completely from the surrounding land and community.

Optional Activities - Day 4 Cycling

Royal Chitwan National Park1h-2h 950NPR per person Explore the village and its surroundings with a guided bike ride. Enjoy sunset on the banks of the Narayani river over a cup of tea.

Meals included: Dinner

Day 5 Royal Chitwan National Park

Explore the park on a 4x4 safari before a walk through the village and rice paddies. Settle in for another night with your Tharu community hosts.

Chitwan 4x4 Safari

Royal Chitwan National Park3h-4h

Explore the diverse ecosystems of Royal Chitwan National Park from the comfort of a 4x4 vehicle. Keep your eyes peeled for the many animals that live there, including birds, monkeys, crocodiles, and rhinos. If you're lucky, you might get to see an elusive tiger.

Day 6 Royal Chitwan National Park/Lumbini

Travel to Lumbini and visit Buddha's birthplace. Enjoy an orientation walk and explore with some free time.

Private Vehicle

Chitwan National Park – Lumbini5h Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Orientation With CEO

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Maya Devi Temple Buddha's Birthplace Visit

Lumbini1h-2h

Visit Maya Devi Temple, Buddha's Birthplace Visit. Explore the numerous monasteries in this World Heritage Site.

Free Time Lumbini Afternoon Enjoy some free time.

Day 7 Lumbini/Varanasi

Cross the border into India and board a train to the holy city of Varanasi, arriving at night.

This is a long travel day to cross into India. Enjoy the changing landscape and get ready to learn about the history and culture of Nepal and India.

Fun Fact: India is 15 minutes behind Nepal. Set your watch.

Private Vehicle

Lumbini – Bhairāhawā30m-1h Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Border Crossing (Nepal/India)

Bhairāhawā - Sunauli30m

Have your passports and documentation ready to cross the border.

Taxi

Sunauli – Gorakhpur2h-3h Jump in the back and tell the driver to step on it, just like they do in the movies.

Train

Gorakhpur – Varanasi6h Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Day 8 Varanasi

Enjoy a sunrise boat tour along the Ganges before walking along the ghats and exploring the old city. In the evening, return to the river for a sunset boat trip and see a different side of Varanasi.

With free time, walk the narrow alleys, visit some of the hundreds of temples and shrines or wander the Old City.

Opt to visit the site of the Buddha's first sermon or sit on the banks of the Ganges watching life unfold around you.

Morning Ganges Boat Tour

Varanasi1h

Catch the sunrise from a boat cruising the sacred Ganges River, where Hindu pilgrims from all over the world come to wash away their sins and cremate their loved ones. Witness locals participating in dawn rituals of bathing and burning at the river.

Orientation Walk

Varanasi1h-2h

Experience the spiritual energy of Varanasi with a walk through the holy city, filled with temples, shrines and Hindus from all over India and the world. Enjoy views of the sacred River Ganges.

Free Time

Varanasi Explore this holy city.

Evening Ganges Boat Tour

Varanasi1h-2h 7km Enjoy a boat ride on the sacred Ganges River, where Hindu pilgrims from all over the world come to wash away their sins and cremate their loved ones. Participate in a candle and flower ceremony while on the water.

Optional Activities - Day 8

Lord Hanuman Temple Visit Varanasi Free Visit a temple honoring the Hindu monkey-god, Hanuman.

Guided Visit of Sarnath

Varanasi

A day of exploration begins with a tuk-tuk ride from Varanasi towards Sarnath, where your local guide awaits. One of the holiest Buddhist sites in the world, Sarnath is the birth place of Buddhism where Lord Buddha preached his first sermon. For nearly 1700 years the site remained a centre for great learning, a place of pilgrimage, and a Vihara (Monastery) for monks and scholars. Guided by a local expert, discover the archeological ruins of the monastery, the ancient Dhamek stupa. Explore the museum at Sarnath and the sacred Maha Bodhi Tree. Visit temples constructed by the buddhist people of Sri Lanka, Thailand and Japan. Stop to admire the Buddha statue located at the Thai Buddha vihara. Some eighty feet tall, it is considered to be the tallest standing Buddha statue at Sarnath. After three hours of guided exploration, your guide will bring you back to your awaiting tuk-tuks bound for your hotel.

Day 9 Varanasi/Orchha

Enjoy free time in this holy city and opt to visit Sarnath. In the evening, catch an overnight train to Orchha.

Travel by train and local 'tempo' to reach Orchha. Enjoy some time away from India's bustling city and gain insight into rural life.

Free Time

Varanasi

Spend time exploring the hidden alleys, temples, and shrines found throughout this holy city -- it's the oldest continually inhabited city in the world. Take time to experience the culture and history or discover the shops and stalls in the Old City.

Basic Overnight Train (beds)

Varanasi – Jhānsi Experience overnight travel like a local. Sit back and get some well-earned (and likely much-needed) rest en route to your next stop.

Optional Activities - Day 9

Lord Hanuman Temple Visit

Varanasi

Free

Visit a temple honoring the Hindu monkey-god, Hanuman.

Guided Visit of Sarnath

Varanasi

A day of exploration begins with a tuk-tuk ride from Varanasi towards Sarnath, where your local guide awaits. One of the holiest Buddhist sites in the world, Sarnath is the birth place of Buddhism where Lord Buddha preached his first sermon. For nearly 1700 years the site remained a centre for great learning, a place of pilgrimage, and a Vihara (Monastery) for monks and scholars. Guided by a local expert, discover the archeological ruins of the monastery, the ancient Dhamek stupa. Explore the museum at Sarnath and the sacred Maha Bodhi Tree. Visit temples constructed by the buddhist people of Sri Lanka, Thailand and Japan. Stop to admire the Buddha statue located at the Thai Buddha vihara. Some eighty feet tall, it is considered to be the tallest standing Buddha statue at Sarnath. After three hours of guided exploration, your guide will bring you back to your awaiting tuk-tuks bound for your hotel.

Day 10 Orchha

Arrive in Orchha and visit Tarragram, a unique paper-making plant, set up to assist tribal women from the area. After, enjoy free time. Opt to witness an evening puja.

Visit Tarragram, a unique paper-making plant, set up to assist tribal women from the area. All the paper is made from recycled clothing and wood pulp. After enjoy free time in town. Opt to rent a bike or stroll along the river.

Auto Rickshaw

Jhānsi - Orchha1h30m Scoot quickly around the big cities inside a three-wheeled mini-taxi.

Tarragram Visit

Orchha1h

Enjoy a visit to this unique paper-making plant, set up to assist tribal women from the area. All the paper is made from recycled clothing and wood pulp.

Free Time

Orchha Full Day Enjoy some free time.

Optional Activities - Day 10 Bike Rental

Rent a bike from a local shop and head out to explore.

Puja Ceremony Orchha Free

Experience a Hindu prayer ceremony presenting flowers, incense, and food to an image or idol representing a deity.

Day 11 Orchha/Āgra

Enjoy Orchha's peaceful rural charm and visit the Orchha Palace complex. For lunch, opt to take a cooking class and enjoy the fruits of your labour. Later, board a train for Agra.

Visit the Orchha Palace complex to learn more about the ancient history of the city. Opt to become a chef for a day by pre-booking the Orchha Cooking School extra.

Auto Rickshaw

Orchha – Jhānsi30m

Scoot quickly around the big cities inside a three-wheeled mini-taxi.

Train

Jhānsi – Āgra2h30m-3h Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Orchha Palace Visit

Orchha1h-2h

Visit the three separate palaces, or "mahals," in this complex: the Raj Mahal, Jehangir Mahal, and Rai Parveen Mahal. Enjoy the medieval architecture and learn about its rich history.

Optional Activities - Day 11 Orchha Cooking School

Orchha

As a place of spiritual importance and impressive architectural sites, it's not hard to see what makes Orchha so unique. This is your chance to also taste what makes this town so special. You'll learn how to concoct a warming cup of masala chai and a tasty snack of vegetable pakoras. Enjoy this as your hosts demonstrate how to make three different curries. Indulge in these delicious dishes with the accompaniments of raita, mango and guava chutneys, chapatis and puris, as you get to know your hosts some more.

Day 12 Āgra/Jaipur

Visit the iconic Taj Mahal at sunrise. Afterwards, travel to the "Pink City" also known as Jaipur.

Private Vehicle

Ågra – Jaipur5h-6h240km Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Taj Mahal Visit

Tāj Mahal - Āgra

Visit this icon of Mughal architecture in the evening for the best light.

Day 13 Jaipur

Get to know Jaipur on an orientation walk and stop for a photo at Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds). Explore the impressive Amber Fort before some evening free time. Opt to watch a Bollywood film or enjoy a drink in a converted palace.

Visit the Amber Fort clinging to the surrounding hills and stop and take a photo of the Hawa Mahal, or Palace of the Winds. This famous building is in fact only an elaborately carved facade built to enable the purdah ladies in the zenana to watch the goings-on in the street below without being seen.

Opt to watch a Bollywood film in the spectacular Art Deco film house — the Raj Mandir. Depending on the time of year, you could opt to see the city from above by pre-booking the Jaipur Balloon Ride when booking your tour.

Orientation Walk

Jaipur1h-2h

Head to the markets of this "Pink City," the capital of Rajasthan, and one of the most important heritage cities in India on this CEO-led orientation walk.

Amber Fort Visit

Jaipur

Take in the Hindu and Muslim architecture of the beautiful Amber Fort. Wander through the halls and courtyards and admire the intricate details.

Optional Activities - Day 13

City Palace Visit

Jaipur 700INR per person

Explore the courtyards, gardens, and buildings that make up the City Palace. Located in the heart of the Old City, it is a striking blend of Mughal and Rajasthani architecture. Visit the palace's museum to look at ancient carriages and the former maharaja's gold-embroidered wedding outfit.

Jantar Mantar Visit

Jaipur1h-2h 200INR per person1000INR per group Visit the Jantar Mantar observatory for a guided tour and explore the collection of astronomical instruments housed there, some dating back to 1727.

Raj Mandir Cinema and Movie

Jaipur 200-400INR per person Visit this spectacular cinema and watch a song-and-dance Bollywood film.

Jaipur Balloon Ride

Jaipur

Begin your day at dawn, just as the sun starts to rise. As you drift into the sky, enjoy the silence and serenity of the morning, watching as the day starts for the colourfully dressed inhabitants below. From high in the sky, you may float over rolling hills, villages teeming with life, and a small monastery. You may even spot elephants—if luck is on your side.

Available September 1 - April 30.

Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) Visit

Jaipur15m-30m

200INR per person

Enjoy a visit to the intricately-carved Hawa Mahal, or "Palace of the Winds," which is named for the cool breeze that comes through the structure and keeps it comfortable, even in the hot Jaipur summers. Explore the main complex, blossoming gardens and the lake.

Day 14 Jaipur/Delhi

Drive to bustling Delhi and visit the India Gate and Connaught Place.

Private Vehicle

Jaipur - Delhi6h Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Delhi Orientation Tour

Delhi2h-4h

Get a taste of India's capital city through a visit to Connaught Place by metro and a walk to India Gate, a stately memorial built for Indian soldiers who died in World War I.

Day 15 Delhi

Depart at any time.

Optional Activities - Day 15 Kitchen with a Cause

Delhi

Hungry? Visit Delhi's Kitchen with a Cause before or after your tour for a delicious meal that gives something back to the local community. It is more than a bustling restaurant – it's a product of the G Values Fund* filled with mouth-watering action. Dishes are prepared by talented chefs who celebrate the deep, traditional flavours prevalent in Indian cuisine. The restaurant provides further career and training opportunities to young adults who are graduates from the G Adventures-supported City Walk project, an organization that aids local disadvantaged youth. Here, the cost of your meal gets you so much more than just a full stomach.

Visit the Kitchen with a Cause at 15A/64, WEA, Kroi Bagh, Delhi, India.

*The G Values Fund is a microloan program instituted by G Adventures that helps former Chief Experience Officers (CEOs) establish self-sustaining businesses.

What's Included

Your G for Good Moment: Sisterhood of Survivors Project, Pokhara Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group Your Local Living Moment: Barauli Community Guesthouse Stay, Royal Chitwan National Park. Kathmandu orientation walk. Swayambhunath (Monkey Temple) visit. Sarangkot sunrise excursion. Chitwan National Park jeep safari. Buddha's birthplace visit. Varanasi orientation walk along the ghats and old city. Ganges River boat trips at sunrise and sunset, including candle flower ceremony. Orchha Palace complex visit. Agra Fort entrance and guided tour. Taj Mahal entrance. Amber Fort and Hawa Mahal tour. India Gate and Connaught Place visit. Border crossing support. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

Highlights

Experience Nepal's mountain views, travel by jeep safari in Chitwan NP, enjoy a sunset cruise on the River Ganges, uncover bustling Delhi and beautiful Jaipur, Explore the vibrant streets of Agra.

Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

Itinerary Notes

Want to experience the sights and sounds of Holi? Make sure you're in India on March 21, 2019 or March 10, 2020 for the nation's most colourful festival.

Important Notes

1. CULTURE

India is a country which is very different to anything you will have experienced before. Although this means it is not the easiest place to travel, this is also what makes it so special. Pollution, poverty and the crowds can result in initial culture shock but should be seen as an exciting new challenge. During our time here we have come to love this large and wonderfully different country but we know that we should always expect to encounter some difficulties along the way.

In India there are very different attitudes to time keeping, public cleanliness, privacy and service. Trains will sometimes be late, plumbing can sometimes be temperamental and power will often just vanish. Optimistic menus turn out to have only one dish available and everyone, just everyone, will want to know your name. If you are able to travel with a lot of patience and a healthy sense of humour, then we know that you - like all of us - will be captivated by what India has to offer.

2. SECURITY IN NEPAL

A comprehensive peace agreement was signed between the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) on November 21, 2006 and significant progress towards sustainable peace continues to be made. On December 16, 2006, Nepal's ruling parties and the CPN-Maoist reached an agreement on an interim constitution. This has been perceived as a crucial development in the country's peace process. An election for a Constituent Assembly was held in Nepal on 10 Aprill 2008, after having been postponed from earlier dates of 20 June 2007 and 22 November 2007. This assembly will draft a new constitution. Hence, this will decide amongst others, on the fate of the Nepalese monarchy and federalism. As a result, the overall security situation has improved however; travelers should be aware that the security situation remains uncertain and could deteriorate quickly with little or no advanced notice. We recommend that you please check your government's advice for their latest travel information before both booking this trip and leaving home, as we want you to travel fully informed.

3. DRONES IN NEPAL

Please note that drones and the flying of drones are prohibited in Nepal. If you violate these regulations the police may take you into custody.

Group Size Notes

Max 15, avg 12

Meals Included

1 lunch, 1 dinner

Transport

Train, metro, local bus, charter bus, private van, auto-rickshaw, cycle-rickshaw, tempo, 4x4, riverboat.

About our Transportation

TRAIN

The best way to see India is at ground level on the railway system. In fact, no visit to India would be complete without the experience of tavelling on a train and negotiating the busy railway stations. The chaos in the Indian Railway stations is a replica of the life in India. Indian trains are not merely a conveyance they are an odyssey so sit back relax, be patient and enjoy the show.

G Adventures uses a combination of AC 2 tier, AC 3 tier and sleeper class (for overnight journeys) and AC Chair car or second class seats for day journeys.

There are no restaurant or buffet cars on Indian Railways, but on long distance trains an attendant will appear in your coach and ask you if you would like to order food. Regular stops are made at stations where food is also available and on some trains many vendors board the train selling chai, cold drinks and crisps and biscuits.

Don't expect pristine western standards anywhere in India, but you'll find AC2, AC3 and AC Chair class fairly clean by Indian standards, with both western-style and squat toilets usually in a reasonably sanitary condition. Sleeper Class and 2nd class toilets may be a different matter! Bring your own toilet paper and hand wash soap or liquid.

Indian trains are quite safe to travel on, even for families or women traveling alone, and you are unlikely to have any problems. Having said that, theft of luggage, although rare is not unheard of, so just for peace of mind you might like to take along a chain and padlock to secure your bags (readily available at all Indian stations).

Generally, Indian Railways are very efficient, but Indian trains do run late, and sometimes it's hours rather than minutes. Make sure you have something to occupy your time – a good book, music, a magazine or photos of your home country and family to show the Indian travelers also waiting for the train. You should also have snacks and water for the journey.

ROAD

Traveling by road in India or Nepal is certainly not what people are use to in Western countries. Rules are not always followed, drivers appear to speed, do not stay in their lanes, overtake in seemingly dangerous situations, rarely use their mirrors or driving lights at night time. The horn however is used very frequently and can range from the latest Bollywood tune to Britney Spears! In India, although the government is investing large sums of money improving the road infrastructure, there is a lot more to be done. As a result, in both India and Nepal, some of the roads are poorly maintained, pot holed and uneven. This gets even more pronounced particularly during and after the monsoon. Travel time covering relatively short distances is very long in comparison to Western countries.

Accommodation

Hotels (10 nts), homestay (2 nts), sleeper train (1 nt), deluxe air-con tents (1 nt).

Rooming and "My Own Room" Exceptions

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single accommodation for all night stops, with the following exceptions: Night 9 in Orchha; Night 10 overnight train

About Accommodation

A variety of styles of hotels/guest houses are used in India. These can vary in terms of service, efficiency and cleanliness. In many instances they might not be like what you are used to back home. Power cuts can and are a regular occurrence in many places, especially throughout North and Central India. Although a number of hotels have generators there may be times when these won't work. It is also recommended when you are in your room to lock the door, as staff will sometime enter without reason.

Joining Instructions

When arriving into Tribhuvan Intl Airport in Kathmandu you will notice how small the city really is. It is on 7km from the downtown area and the only way to get there is by taxi. You can arrange a prepaid taxi from the counter outside of the baggage hall run by the Airport Queue Taxi Service Management Committee for about 200-250 Rupees (approx 3-4 USD). Please be aware of people wanting to help you with your bags as they will ask for money once you get to your taxi.

If you have paid in advance for an arrival transfer, a G Adventures representative will be at the airport to meet you. If for any reason you are not met at the airport, please call our local support line. If you are unable to make contact for whatever reason, please make your way to the joining point hotel via taxi.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other then your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time. Similarly the last day is a departure day during which no activities have been planned.

A G Adventures Representative will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time. If you arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

Arrival Complications

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Emergency Contact

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, we will do our best to rearrange your arrival transfer however we cannot guarantee this. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

If your call is specifically concerning Airport Transfer complications at Tribhuvan Internartional Airport please call our local G Adventures Transfer providers directly at:

Mr. Rajju Maskey From outside of Nepal: +977 98 0201 4444 From within Kathmandu: 98 0201 4444 From within Nepal, but outside Kathmandu: 098 0201 4444

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures South Asia Manager, Sorab (Delhi, India)

>From outside of India: +91 88 5180 6614 >From within Delhi: 88 5180 6614 >From within India, but outside Delhi: 088 5180 6614

G Adventures Office Bangkok, Thailand During Office hours (Weekdays, 9am-5pm Local Time): +66-02-3815574 If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found <u>here</u>.

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100 Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000 Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000 Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618 Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307 Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

Packing List

Cold Weather:

- Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
- Scarf
- Snow Boots
- Warm gloves
- Warm hat
- Warm layers
- Warm waterproof jacket

Conservative Dress:

- Modest clothing that covers knees and shoulders (Long pants, long skirts, shirts that cover shoulders)
- Shawl or scarf (for temple visits)

Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- · Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs

• First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/ plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)

- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

Health & Safety:

- Hand sanitizer (required)
- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)
- Quick Covid Test/Antigen Test

Light Hiking:

- Hiking boots/sturdy walking shoes
- Hiking pants (Convertible/Zip-off and quick dry recommended)
- Sleeping bag liner/sleep sheet

Train Travel (Optional):

- Slip-on shoes
- Small container with lid
- Travel cutlery

Travel or camp cup

Warm Weather:

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

Note: During the colder months (Oct-Apr) the mountains can be cold, so please make sure you pack warm clothes. During the months of Jul-Sep is the rainy season, so please make sure to pack waterproof clothes.

Visas and Entry Requirements

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page <u>here</u>

All travellers must have a valid Indian visa prior to the start of their tour. Please note that visas for India are the responsibility of the individual traveller.

India is now offering e-Visas for some nationalities. Please visit this link for further information, and to check if your nationality is eligible for an e-Visa: https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html

For this itinerary, we recommend visiting the Indian embassy or consulate nearest you to apply for a physical visa that will be stamped onto your passport. This itinerary includes a land border crossing into India. Land border crossings only accept physical visas stamped onto your passport by an Indian embassy, consulate, or airport border official. E-visas are not valid for land border crossings.

Emergency Fund

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Optional Activities

Mount Everest

- Everest Flight

Sarangkot

- Gorkha Museum Visit (200NPR per person)
- World Peace Pagoda Excursion (1000-1500NPR per group)

Pokhara

- Bike Rental

- Paragliding in Pokhara (8090INR per person)

Royal Chitwan National Park - Cycling (950NPR per person)

Varanasi

- Lord Hanuman Temple Visit (Free)

- Guided Visit of Sarnath

Orchha

- Puja Ceremony (Free)
- Orchha Cooking School

Jaipur

- City Palace Visit (700INR per person)
- Jantar Mantar Visit (200INR per person, 1000INR per group)
- Raj Mandir Cinema and Movie (200-400INR per person)
- Jaipur Balloon Ride
- Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) Visit (200INR per person)

Delhi

- Kitchen with a Cause

Health

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that sometimes we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our CEOs are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. In Asia pharmacies tend to stock the same western drugs as you get at home but they are usually produced locally so please bring the full drug name with you when trying to purchase a prescription drug. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical and Culture Shock ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our group CEO they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

A Couple of Rules

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

Local Dress

In Asia the dress standard is more conservative than it is back home. When packing try to pick loose, lightweight, long clothing that will keep you cool in the usually hot and humid climate of Asian summers. In predominately Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim countries we ask that you dress respectfully and avoid very short shorts/skirts and singlets/tanktops when visiting small rural communities or visiting temples or mosques or other holy sites as this may restrict your entry.

India is very conservative and you should dress accordingly. As a general guideline shoulders and knees should be covered at all times. The wearing of shorts is not allowed as it will restrict your entry into buildings of a religious nature and family homes. A light water and windproof jacket is useful and a hat essential.

NB: WE STRESS THAT IT CAN BE VERY COLD IN THE HILLS DURING THE MONTHS FROM DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY.

NB: During our trip there will be many opportunities for you to meet and "talk" with locals. One way to start any conversation is with pictures. We recommend that you bring some photos/postcards of your family, home, city or country where you live, animals peculiar to your country etc.

Feedback

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at customersolutions@gadventures.com and we will send it on to you.

Minimum Age

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

International Flights

Check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.