

# JOURNEYS BY PRIVATE PLANE

ESCORTED TOURING THROUGH ASIA April & November 2025

NOBLE CALEDON



## DEAR TRAVELLER

We are delighted to have exclusively chartered a private plane to offer two remarkable itineraries in 2025 which will enable us to travel in the utmost comfort between some of the most fascinating countries in Asia. Our comprehensive itineraries certainly couldn't be undertaken independently with ease by using scheduled flights and with the benefit of a private plane at our disposal, we have been able to develop our itineraries to ensure we utilise your holiday time to the best effect, maximising time in destinations and minimising time wasted at airports. Whenever possible we will use private terminals at airports and benefit from expedited customs and immigration arrangements and our team will ensure that your luggage is collected from your hotel room and delivered to the plane when permitted.

Our private plane is equipped with everything needed to ensure each flight is a comfortable and relaxing experience. Outfitted and custom configured to seat just 62 guests, the cabin is spacious with Business Class seating with only two seats on each side of the aisle. The seats provide a comfortable level of recline with leg rests. Meals served on board will be accompanied by fine wines and throughout each flight all drinks are included. On board you will be cared for by a specially trained crew who will remain with us throughout the tours and welcome you back on board after each exciting destination.

### THE ITINERARIES

'Crossroads of Cultures' in April is a three week journey which includes Jordan's magnificent rose-red city of Petra, Oman's ancient capital of Nizwa, the peaceful backwaters of Kerala, Nepal's evocative capital of Kathmandu, the remote mountain Kingdom of Bhutan, the Silk Road city of Samarkand and finally Georgia's charming capital city of Tbilisi. Our inaugural 'Crossroads of Cultures' tour by private plane took place in 2023 and was a great success and Neil Horrocks who led that tour along with Guest Speaker Ernest Rea will once again be accompanying the tour in 2025.

'Exotic India' in November discovers one of the most diverse countries in the world. With a history dating back over 5000 years, India is home to an amazing array of sacred monuments, ancient ruins, Jain Temples and Buddhist stupas along with bustling cities, serene backwaters and magnificent wildlife. Visiting India is a feast for all the senses and travelling from Delhi to Mumbai we will journey with ease through a land steeped in an intriguing history and fascinating culture. From the vibrant and bustling cities of Delhi and Mumbai to the amazing architectural treasures of the Taj Mahal and Jaipur, the tranquil backwaters of Kerala, the splendid wildlife of Ranthambore, the holy city of Amritsar and the spiritual Ganges in Varanasi, we will discover some of India's most renowned wonders.

Guided excursions are of course included in each destination which will provide an insight into the cultures, customs and natural wonders of the region. In addition to our Guest Speaker and our excellent local guides, we have also arranged for local specialists to give talks in some destinations which will add greatly to our knowledge and understanding of the history and culture of the regions.

We hope you can join us for these remarkable journeys.

Tim Cochrane Managing Director







# CROSSROADS OF CULTURES THE ITINERARY

JORDAN  $\rightarrow$  OMAN  $\rightarrow$  KERALA  $\rightarrow$  NEPAL  $\rightarrow$  BHUTAN  $\rightarrow$  UZBEKISTAN  $\rightarrow$  GEORGIA 7<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025



### HIGHLIGHTS

- + Experience a four wheel drive excursion in Wadi Rum with a Bedouin style lunch in the desert.
- $\rightarrow$  Discover the rose-red city of Petra.
- → See one of Oman's most impressive forts in Nizwa.
- ✤ Spend a day on a traditional houseboat in the Kerala Backwaters.
- + Exclusive performance of Kathakali dance.
- $\rightarrow$  Explore the fascinating city of Kathmandu.
- ✤ Learn about Bhutan and Gross National Happiness from a Bhutanese scholar.
- → Visit Bhutan's Taktsang monastery (*Tiger's Nest*).
- + Enjoy a private dinner inside the Ulugbek Madrasa in Samarkand.
- Discover Mtskheta, Georgia's cultural & religious centre.
- $\rightarrow$  Enjoy an exclusive tasting of Georgian wine.

Day 1 Radisson Blu Hotel, London Stansted. This afternoon, check in any time after 15.00 at the Radisson Blu Hotel. Complimentary parking will be available at the Inflite Private Jet Centre including a transfer to the hotel. For those arriving by train, the hotel is located a short walk from the station. This evening there will be a buffet dinner at the hotel where you can meet the Noble Caledonia Team who will be accompanying you for this adventure. Alternatively, you can join us at the Inflite Private Jet Centre prior to our first flight on the morning of Day 2 (rebate will apply).

Day 2 London Stansted to Aqaba, Jordan. This morning we will transfer to the Inflite Private Jet Terminal at Stansted Airport avoiding the hustle and bustle of the main terminal. Our private plane will be directly in front of the terminal allowing for a stress-free boarding process. There will be a breakfast service on board and on arrival in Aqaba we will transfer to the Movenpick Aqaba Resort and Residences. After settling into our rooms we will meet for welcome drinks and dinner in the hotel this evening. Flight Time: 5 Hours – 09.00 to 16.00

Day 3 Wadi Rum & Petra. Check out after breakfast and transfer to the Wadi Rum Visitor Centre. From here we transfer to four-wheel drive vehicles for a tour to Wadi Rum, also known as the Valley of the Moon where the desert landscape is mixed with awe-inspiring shapes to create an almost supernatural atmosphere. See the Seven Pillars of Wisdom, the famous landmark named after the book by T.E. Lawrence 'Lawrence of Arabia' as well as Siq Um Al Tawaqi, a short canyon containing a carving of the head of T.E. Lawrence. After lunch in a Bedouin tent, we continue our journey to visit the extraordinary site of Little Petra which is a miniature Petra, hidden amidst white sandstone, with its own small gorge (Siq el-Barid) and impressive rock-hewn facades of monuments, water reservoirs, aqueducts and stairways. Little Petra was probably the major caravanserai of the Nabatean capital Petra. After our visit we will check into the Movenpick



Petra for a two night stay. Tonight, there will be the opportunity to join a 'Petra by Night' tour where parts of the ancient city, including the Siq, are lit by over 1500 candles offering a magical view of the site.

Day 4 Petra. After breakfast in the hotel we will make our way to the entrance of the old city and walk along the 'Siq' to visit the rose-red city. The ancient city of Petra was built between 800 BC to 100 AD by Nabatean Arabs. In this era Petra was a fortress, carved out of craggy rocks in an area which was virtually inaccessible. In the first and second century, after the Romans took over, the city reached the peak of its fame. Petra covers an area of about 100 square kilometres, in which over 800 monuments can be found. When shipping slowly displaced caravan routes, the city's importance gradually dwindled; it fell into disuse and was lost to the world until 1812, when it was re-discovered by the Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt. After a morning of exploration with our guides we will enjoy lunch in Petra. This afternoon is free to continue to explore further at your own pace or return to the hotel to relax. You may also wish to visit the Petra Museum located next to the hotel with many artefacts discovered in the city. This evening, join our Guest Speaker Ernie Rea for his first lecture before we enjoy dinner in the hotel's roof garden restaurant.

Day 5 Petra to Muscat, Oman. Check out this morning and return to Aqaba to embark our private plane for the flight to Muscat. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Al Bustan Palace Hotel. After time to settle in and familiarise yourself with the hotel we will meet for a private dinner in the hotel grounds. *Flight Time: 3 Hours – 11.30 to 15.30* 

**Day 6 Muscat.** A morning city tour of Muscat will include the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, a stunning piece of modern Islamic

architecture which can accommodate up to 20,000 worshippers. Continue to the fascinating National Museum which houses historical artefacts as well as the Royal Opera House. Return to the hotel for lunch and some free time to relax on the beach or poolside. Guest Speaker, Ernie Rea, will deliver his second lecture this evening before we drive to the Al Angham Restaurant, located by the Opera House where we will enjoy a traditional Omani dinner.

Day 7 Muscat & Nizwa. On a full day excursion we will drive inland through fascinating scenery to see one of the most impressive forts in Oman at the sultanate of Nizwa. Nizwa was Oman's ancient capital where we find the 17th century fort which has a unique 40-metre-tall round tower. We will continue to Jabrin Castle built in 1675 as a centre of learning for astrology, medicine and Islamic Law. Lunch will be served in the grounds of the castle before we return to Muscat. The remainder of the day will be at leisure with dinner served in the hotel this evening.

Day 8 Muscat to Kerala, India. This morning we return to the airport and embark our private plane for the flight to Cochin, the gateway to the Kerala region of India. On arrival we will drive to the Kumarakom Lake Resort, situated amongst palm fringed canals and paddy fields in the lush backwaters of Kottayam. Arriving in the late afternoon we have time to settle into our rooms before we meet for a dinner of local cuisine by the banks of the lake. *Flight Time: 3.5 Hours – 09.30 to 14.30* 

Day 9 Kerala Backwaters. This morning is free to relax in the hotel or maybe join one of our local guides for a visit to a nearby village and learn a little about daily life in this part of India. In the early afternoon we will board a traditional houseboat and enjoy lunch on board and an afternoon cruising the serene backwaters of Kerala. A backwater comprises of a unique web of rivers, lakes, bays, lagoons and canals extending into the villages and towns of the area. Spend the time relaxing on deck and admiring the passing landscapes of colonial warehouses, paddy fields and coconut thatched houses whilst spotting birds and floating plants and observing scenes of daily life along the water. We will disembark in Alleppy and return to the hotel by coach. This evening we will meet for a buffet dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Day 10 Kerala Backwaters. Today you can choose to spend the day at the resort, maybe relax by the pool or indulge in an Ayurveda spa therapy. Alternatively join one of the "shikaras", which are the boats used by the locals to carry trade and people between the villages, as we make our way to a local farm where they practice sustainable farming for spices, fruit and fish. Learn about the farming techniques and enjoy a freshly prepared lunch of local specialities. Return to the hotel for some free time this afternoon before we meet in the early evening for a lecture by Ernie Rea. Afterwards we will say farewell to India with a performance of Kathakali, a classical dance form that combines literature, music, acting, and elaborate costumes. We will see the performers as they apply the intricate make-up and enjoy a private dance performance and dinner on the hotel lawns by the lake.

Day 11 Kerala to Kathmandu, Nepal. Return to Cochin airport this morning and board our private plane for a flight to Nepal's capital city of Kathmandu, a 2000-year-old city surrounded by the Himalayan mountains. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to Dwarika's Hotel. Enjoy some time at leisure before we meet for dinner this evening at the hotel's Toran restaurant this evening. Flight Time: 3.5 Hours – 12.00 to 15.45

Day 12 Kathmandu & Patan. After breakfast we make our way to the 5th century Boudhanath Stupa, one of the holiest Buddhist sites in Nepal where pilgrims can be seen circumnavigating the stupa chanting mantras. We will interact with some of the monks at a Buddhist monastery, before continuing to Patan. Situated on the outskirts of Kathmandu and known as the 'city of artisans', Patan is home to the finest craftsmen still using many ancient techniques. After lunch we return to the hotel for a leisurely afternoon. In the early evening we will be joined by a representative of Deprosc Nepal who will provide insight into the rebuilding of the city after the devastating earthquake of 2015 as well as other projects with the local farming communities. Afterwards we will enjoy a delicious and traditional Nepali menu served in the hotel courtyard.

**Day 13 Kathmandu.** This morning we visit Kathmandu Durbar Square. See the Royal Palace with its gilded gates and elaborate statues



and the many stalls displaying a wide variety of Nepalese and Tibetan handicrafts. Later we take a rickshaw ride to the commercial area of Thamel where we can shop for local artefacts. Return to the hotel for lunch and an afternoon at leisure before we meet for dinner this evening.

Day 14 Kathmandu to Thimpu, Bhutan. Mid-morning we return to Kathmandu Airport for our specially chartered flight to Paro Airport. Enjoy the spectacular views before we land in the Paro Valley and transfer to Thimpu, Bhutan's capital. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the facilities at the hotel and the wonderful views over the Himalayas. Before dinner this evening in the hotel, we will be joined by a Bhutanese scholar who will talk to us about Bhutan and Gross National Happiness. The Gross National Happiness philosophy serves as a beacon for Bhutan in its search for greater wellbeing and advancement of the Bhutanese people.

#### Flight Time: 1 Hour - 10.00 to 11.15 (Local charter flight)

Day 15 Thimpu. This morning we will drive to the Dochula Pass situated over 3000 metres above sea level. The highest point on the road is marked by a large Bhutanese stupa with 108 small stupas and prayer flags fluttering on amongst the cypress trees. On a clear day, there is a breathtaking view of the high peaks of the eastern Himalayas from this spot including Gangkar Puensum, the highest peak in Bhutan. Return to Thimpu where we will visit the Textile Museum, created to preserve the ancient art of weaving, the painting school, National Memorial Chorten and the Great Buddha Dordenma statue from where there are wonderful views over the valley of Thimphu. There will be free time to explore the bustling streets of the capital before dinner this evening.

Day 16 Tiger's Nest Monastery & Paro. Early this morning we will take a scenic drive into the Paro valley where there will be a choice of activities. You may choose to join the excursion to Paro Taktsang monastery (Tiger's Nest). Clinging to the cliffs almost 3000 metres above the Paro valley, the breathtaking Paro Taktsang monastery is one of the most spectacular sites in the world. The Buddhist monastery consists of four temples and eight caves, accessed through the forest from the valley below. The challenging walk will take us along paths strewn with colourful prayer flags and spectacular views of the valley. Alternatively, those who prefer a less strenuous day can visit the National Museum which showcases collections of Bhutanese art, weapons and historical artefacts before learning more about the national sport of archery. Later today we will transfer to Le Meridien Hotel for an overnight stay and a traditional dinner including local dance and music.

Day 17 Thimpu to Samarkand, Uzbekistan. This morning we will transfer to the airport for our specially chartered flight to Kathmandu. Here we will connect with our private plane for the flight to Samarkand. Located in the valley of the Zarafshan River in northeastern Uzbekistan it is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in Central Asia. Founded in the 7th century BC, the city prospered from its location on the trading routes between China and the Mediterranean, became a centre for Islamic scholars and in the 14th century became the capital of the Tamerlane Empire. We arrive this afternoon and transfer to our hotel where we have the reminder of the day to relax. This evening we will meet for a pre-dinner drink and lecture before dinner in the hotel. Flight Time: Paro to Kathmandu: 1 hour – 10.00 to 10.45 (Local charter flight)

Flight Time: Kathmandu to Samarkand: 3 Hours - 12.15 to 14.30

Day 18 Samarkand. This morning our local guide will take us to some of the highlights of the city including the stunning architecture, 15th century Gur Emir Mausoleum and Registan Square. When Samarkand was the pride of the Muslim world, Registan Square was the centre of the city surrounded on three sides by mosques and madrassas which in the 16th century were said to "hold up the sky" with their huge portals, minarets and blue tiles. After lunch we will continue our discovery of the city seeing the Shah-i-Zinda Ensemble, also known as the 'street of tombs' which is a compound of mausoleums adorned with blue cuppolas, high portals and ornamental stone arches. Also see the Bibi-Khanym Mosque and Siab Bazaar. Return to the hotel to freshen up before we return to Registan Square for a private dinner inside the Ulugbek Madrasa.

Day 19 Samarkand to Tbilisi, Georgia. Return to the airport this morning and embark our private plane for our flight to Tbilisi. The city's



location on the crossroads of Europe and Asia and close to the Silk Road made it a strategic centre for many years. Today we still discover diverse people, cultures and traditions intermingling with one another. On arrival we will transfer to the Marriott Hotel and enjoy an afternoon at leisure before dinner.

Flight Time: 2.5 Hours – 12.00 to 13.30

Day 20 Tbilisi. A morning city tour of Tblisi will include a drive to the Holy Trinity Cathedral and Freedom Square before a walking tour of the city passes the Rezo Gabriadze puppet Theatre and Clock tower, the Sioni Cathedral and the old bathhouses. Those feeling active can continue to see the city waterfall. Our tour ends with a walk up to the Metechi plateau for a view over the old town and to see the Metechi Church. We continue to Chateau Mukhrani, the first and only true Georgian Royal Chateau, which unites four key components: vineyards, winery, castle and history. Mukhranian wine production was established by Ivane Mukhranbatoni, a famous representative of the royal family and a political and public figure of the 19th century. In 1879, Ivane Mukhranbatoni returned from France with Chateau concept knowledge and established wine production at the Chateau Mukhrani. We will explore the chateau and enjoy a wine tasting with lunch before returning to our hotel this afternoon. This evening we will meet for dinner at a traditional Georgian restaurant in the city.

Day 21 Mtskheta & Tblisi. Today we will explore Mtskheta, one of the oldest towns and the cultural and religious centre of Georgia. It was the capital of the Eastern Georgian Kingdom of Iberia from the third century BC and due to its location at the confluence of the Aragvi and Mtkvari River was a crossroad of many trade routes. Today it is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is a living museum, with many architectural and historical monuments. See the Svetitskhoveli Cathedral and Jvari Church, a masterpiece of the early Medieval Period where we can hear some Georgian polyphonic choral music presented by The Anchiskhati Choir. Return to Tblisi for a leisurely afternoon. Tonight we will take the funicular up Mount Mtatsminda for our farewell dinner with wonderful views over the city below.

Day 22 Tbilisi to London Stansted. Return to the airport this morning for our final flight to London Stansted Inflite Private Jet Centre. If you have parked at the Jet Centre, you will have direct access to your car alternatively a transfer will be provided to Stansted Airport Train Station.

Flight Time: 4 Hours, 40 Mins - 12.00 to 12.40

### PRICES PER PERSON Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFE	<b>R</b> – SAVE £3000	PER PERSON

BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE
Twin: £35,995	Twin: £32,995
Single: £39,995	Single: £36,995

PRICE INCLUDES: Flights aboard privately chartered plane in business class style seats (specially arranged charter flight in Nepal)

• 21 nights hotel accommodation in five-star (or best available) hotels

• All meals inclusive of drinks • All guided excursions • All transfers

• All porterage • Noble Caledonia Team including Guest Speaker • All gratuities • All taxes.

Noble Caledonia will also be carbon offsetting the air travel on behalf of all those travelling.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas.

### Radisson Blu Hotel, London Stansted

If you would prefer to join us at the Private Jet Terminal on 8th April (Day 2 of itinerary) prior to our first flight, we can offer a rebate for the first night's accommodation. Please advise at the time of booking and we will adjust your booking accordingly.

**Visa Information:** A visa is required for British passport holders for Jordan (no charge, arranged on arrival); India (an E-visa can be applied for before travel for fee of approximately £25); Nepal (applications are made online before travel for fee of approximately £25) and Bhutan (arranged by local agents, no fee). Noble Caledonia will provide all supporting documentation needed for passengers to arrange their visas. This information is correct at the time of printing and should the information change, we will be in touch with booked passengers with updated guidelines.

NB: Itinerary is subject to change. Flight departure and arrival times shown are local, are provisional and subject to change. During the tour all drinks with meals are included, however please note there will be certain days during our tour where, due to local customs, we are unable to include alcohol. In these cases a range of nonalcoholic drinks will be served.

# crossroads of cultures -HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Below are details of the hotels we will be using for our unique journey. We have selected a range of conveniently located hotels which are all five-star or best available. Our first evening will be based at the Radisson Blu Hotel, London Stansted where you can meet your fellow travellers and the Noble Caledonia team before we transfer the following morning to the private jet terminal.



# MOVENPICK RESORT & RESIDENCES, AQABA, JORDAN

The Movenpick Resort & Residences is located in the centre of Aqaba with magnificent views of the stunning waters of the Red Sea and surrounding mountains. This architectural delight features a mix of European and Arabesque designs, reflecting a homely feeling. The resort combines grandeur, luxury and welcoming hospitality. The resort features four swimming pools, a health club, sauna, private beach and eight on-site bars and restaurants. The spacious, air-conditioned guest rooms are elegantly furnished and feature bathroom with bathtub, safe, in-room tea and coffee making facilities, complimentary high speed internet access and satellite television.



### AL BUSTAN PALACE, MUSCAT, OMAN

Enviably positioned between the Sea of Oman and the Al Hajar Mountains, Al Bustan Palace offers an alluring blend of old and new, local and global, carefully designed and naturally untamed. Set within a former palace, the only remaining in Oman, the resort features a Six Senses Spa with locally inspired treatments and six hammam rooms. There are also five dining venues featuring local and international cuisine as well as a private beach, five swimming pools, tennis courts, gym and yoga studio. The spacious deluxe pool view rooms feature a balcony with views over the landscaped grounds, bathtub and satellite television.



### MOVENPICK RESORT PETRA, JORDAN

The Movenpick Resort Petra is located directly at the entrance to the historic city of Petra. This resort with its oriental flair features an exciting combination of natural stone, handcrafted wood and Middle Eastern fabrics and textures. Nestled amongst amber-hued sands, rocky outcrops and endless blue skies, the hotel features 183 rooms and suites and the spacious superior rooms feature a balcony with mountain views. They also offer complimentary Wi-Fi and minibar selection, bathroom with bathtub, safe, in-room tea and coffee making facilities and satellite television. The hotel also features a fitness centre, steam room and pool as well as seven on-site bars and restaurants.



### KUMARAKOM LAKE RESORT, KERALA, INDIA

Nestled on the banks of the serene Vembanad Lake in the tiny nook of Kerala, Kumarakom Lake Resort offers luxury accommodation. The rooms, villas and suites at Kumarakom Lake Resort are a perfect blend of Kerala's traditional architectural charm with luxurious, modern comforts. Each is a careful reconstruction of manas, the 16th century traditional homesteads of Kerala. The Meandering Pool Villas are set on the 250-metre-long pool with access to the pool from private balconies. Whilst here you can also use the fitness room, take an excursion on the lake, and enjoy meals in the Ettukettu or Vembanad restaurants or snacks at the Thattukada tea shop.



### DWARIKA'S HOTEL, KATHMANDU, NEPAL

The Dwarika's Kathmandu is a heritage hotel that takes its inspiration from the architectural grandeur of Newari royal palaces. The hotel houses an extensive collection of artefacts from the 13th century onwards. The elegant courtyards, buildings and rooms contain some of Nepal's best craftsmanship, capturing the beauty and spirit of an ancient city. The spacious guest rooms are designed to blend intricate Nepali design motifs and original artworks with a contemporary style. The Pancha Kosha Himalayan Spa uses indigenous Himalayan herbs for authentic treatments whilst the three restaurants serve Nepali and international cuisines with ingredients sourced from the Dwarika's own farms. There is also a pool, fitness centre, library and complimentary Wi-Fi.



### LE MERIDIEN, PARO, BHUTAN

Le Meridien Paro is the perfect destination to experience Bhutan's exotic culture and natural beauty with a mix of luxury and comfort. Located on the edge of the Paro River, the hotel offers panoramic views of the Eastern Himalayas. Facilities include the Explore Spa, an indoor heated pool and a fitness centre. There are two restaurants, Bamboo Chic and Latest Recipe and Latitude bar which offer diners an exquisite sensorial experience. The 59 guest rooms are chic retreats designed with the curious traveller in mind and each offers striking Himalayan Valley and Paro River views. Rooms feature bathtub and separate shower, safe and tea and coffee making facilities.



### TAJ TASHI, THIMPU, BHUTAN

Nestled in the heart of the picturesque Thimphu valley overlooking the Wang Chu River lies the Taj Tashi, the gateway to a magical land brimming with fascinating mythology. Staying true to Bhutan's ancient and alluring ways, Taj Tashi blends Dzong architecture and modern design, and is adorned with classical hand-drawn Buddhist murals. The 66 spacious rooms overlook the exquisite mountains and capture the essence of Bhutanese art and architecture. Two restaurants, a tea lounge and a bar focus on a different aspect of Bhutan's vibrant Mahayana Buddhist culture. The hotel also features a heated indoor swimming pool, spa, fitness centre and complimentary Wi-Fi.





### DILIMAH, SAMARKAND, UZBEKISTAN

DiliMah Premium Luxury is located in Samarkand close to the main tourist sites. The hotel features both an indoor and outdoor swimming pool and a garden. The property has a terrace, as well as a shared lounge. Rooms are bright, spacious and comfortably furnished. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available and all rooms are equipped with a flat-screen television and private bathroom fitted with a bath. Meals are served in the hotel restaurant featuring local and international cuisine.

### MARRIOTT HOTEL, TBILISI, GEORGIA

Located in an elegant historic building, Tbilisi Marriott Hotel provides a truly memorable backdrop for visits to Georgia's unique capital city. Immaculately appointed rooms offer soundproof windows, highspeed internet access and marble bathrooms with jetted tubs. Parnas Cafe offers delicious Georgian and global cuisine; Majestic Lounge & Bar serves light bites and craft cocktails. There is also a 24-hour fitness centre. The hotel is ideally located just a few moments from attractions and landmarks including Liberty Square, Narikala Fortress and the Parliament of Georgia.

# EXOTIC INDIA THE ITINERARY

TBILISI  $\rightarrow$  DELHI  $\rightarrow$  AMRITSAR  $\rightarrow$  JAIPUR  $\rightarrow$  VARANASI  $\rightarrow$  COCHIN  $\rightarrow$  MUMBAI  $\rightarrow$  LUXOR 4<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025



## HIGHLIGHTS

- ✤ Visit the Golden Temple, the holiest shrine for the Sikh religion.
- ✤ Enjoy a dawn boat ride on the Ganges, the holy river for the Hindu religion.
- → Visit the iconic Taj Mahal.
- ightarrow See the beautiful Palace of the Winds in Jaipur.
- Experience a safari at Ranthambore National Park, home to magnificent wildlife including tigers.
- ightarrow Cruise along the serene Keralan backwaters.
- → Taste the varied cuisine of India in both the north and south of the country.
- Enjoy a performance of classical Keralan dance, 'Kathakali' and a demonstration of Kalaripayattu, an ancient martial art.
- View the remarkable caves on Elephanta Island, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day 1 Radisson Blu Hotel, London Stansted. This afternoon, check in any time after 15.00 at the Radisson Blu Hotel. Complimentary parking will be available at the Inflite Private Jet Centre including a transfer to the hotel. For those arriving by train, the hotel is located a short walk from the station. This evening there will be a buffet dinner at the hotel where you can meet the Noble Caledonia Team who will be accompanying you for this adventure. Alternatively, you can join us at the Inflite Private Jet Centre prior to our first flight on the morning of Day 2 (rebate will apply).

Day 2 London Stansted to Tbilisi, Georgia. This morning we will transfer the short distance to the Inflite Jet Centre where we will check in for our flight and board our private plane. After settling in on board there will be a breakfast service. On arrival we will make our way through immigration and customs before transferring to the Marriott Tbilisi. After settling into our rooms we will meet for dinner in the hotel. Flight Time: 5 Hours, 40 mins – 09.00 to 17.40

**Day 3 Tbilisi.** A morning city tour of Tbilisi will include a drive to the Holy Trinity Cathedral and Freedom Square before a walking tour of the city passes the Rezo Gabriadze puppet theatre and Clock Tower, the Sioni Cathedral and the old bathhouses. Those feeling active can continue to see the city waterfall. Our tour concludes with a walk up to the Metechi plateau to see the Metechi Church and enjoy the view over the old town. After our tour we will drive to Chateau Mukhrani, the first and only true Georgian Royal Chateau which unites four key components: vineyards, winery, castle and history. Mukhranian wine production was established by Ivane Mukhranbatoni, a famous representative of the royal family and a political and public figure of the 19th century. In 1879, Ivane Mukhranbatoni returned from France with Chateau Concept knowledge and established wine production at the Chateau Mukhrani. We will explore the Chateau and enjoy a wine tasting with lunch before returning



to our hotel for some time at leisure. We will meet later this evening for dinner at a traditional Georgian restaurant in the city.

Day 4 Tbilisi to Delhi, India. After breakfast we return to the airport and our private plane for the flight to Delhi. Arrive this evening in India's largest city which has been one of the country's commercial and economic hubs for centuries and as a result is incredibly rich in culture and history. Transfer to the ITC Maurya Hotel for our three night stay and dinner this evening will be at the hotel. *Flight Time: 4 Hours, 50 mins – 10.00 to 18.20* 

**Day 5 Delhi.** This morning is free to relax in the hotel and enjoy the hotel facilities. In the late morning we will transfer to Old Delhi for lunch followed by an afternoon tour which will include a visit to the 17th century Jama Masjid, the Mughal Empire's opulent Red Fort and Raj Ghat, where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated. We end with a rickshaw ride through the narrow, winding lanes of colourful and bustling Chandni Chowk. Return to the hotel and this evening we will meet for dinner in the hotel's celebrated Bukhara Restaurant.

**Day 6 Agra.** After an early breakfast we make our way to the railway station to board the train to Agra. Agra's history dates back to the Mughals who proclaimed it their capital in 1565. Located on the Yamuna River, the city grew as a centre of architectural, political and trading activity. Today the city is a kaleidoscope of India with various communities living in harmony. On arrival we make our way to Agra Fort which was completed by the Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1573 and remained the main residence of emperors of the Mughal dynasty until 1638. After lunch in the city, we will see the legendary beauty and the white marble domes of the elegant Taj Mahal. Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as an exquisite mausoleum for his beloved

wife Mumtaz Mahal, Rudyard Kipling described the building as 'the embodiment of all things pure'. After our visit we will return to Delhi by train and have a relaxed dinner in the hotel this evening.

Day 7 Delhi to Amritsar. This morning we will drive through New Delhi, seeing the government buildings, President's House and India Gate as we make our way to the airport and our private plane for the short flight to Amritsar. Located in the northern state of Punjab, near the Pakistan border, Amritsar is the holiest city of the Sikh culture and home to the Golden Temple. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Taj Swarna Hotel where we check in for our two night stay and enjoy some time at leisure. Those interested may wish to see the evening Palki Ceremony, a daily ritual that takes place twice a day where the Guru Granth Sahib (holy book) is taken from the Golden Temple to the Sri Akal Takht located opposite. Flight Time: 50 mins – 11.45 to 12.35

Day 8 Amritsar. Our day will start at one of the most spiritual places in India, the Golden Temple which, also known as Sri Harmandir Sahib, is the holiest shrine in all of Sikhism. Located right in the heart of Amritsar, the stunning golden architecture of the temple and the daily Langar (community kitchen) attract a large number of visitors and devotees each day. The temple is open to all faiths and serves free food to over 100,000 people from all walks of life. Later we see the Jallianwala Bagh, a historic garden and 'memorial of national importance' close to the Golden Temple complex, preserved in the memory of those wounded and killed in the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. After lunch we visit the Wagah Border, which marks the boundaries between the Indian and Pakistani borders, running along the Grand Trunk Road. The Wagah Border Ceremony, or the Beating Retreat Ceremony, held every day, is the prime attraction. Every evening, just before sunset, the soldiers



from the Indian and Pakistan military meet at this border post to engage in a display of military camaraderie and showmanship.

Day 9 Amritsar to Jaipur & Ranthambore National Park. This morning we return to our private plane for the short flight to Jaipur from where we will drive to the Ranthambore National Park (approx. four hour drive) and check into the Taj Sawai for a two night stay. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure to enjoy the hotel facilities. This evening we will be joined by a local naturalist for a lecture on the tigers of India before dinner. *Flight Time: 55 mins – 10.00 to 10.55* 

Day 10 Ranthambore National Park. Named after the historic Ranthambore Fort, which lies within the park, this used to be the hunting ground of the Maharaja of Jaipur and in 1972 the sanctuary came under the Project Tiger scheme. One of the largest national parks in Northern India, Ranthambore offers some of the finest opportunities for wildlife sightings including the magnificent tiger, basking crocodiles, king vultures, serpent eagle, sloth bears, jackal and hyena or spotted deer. We will have a morning and afternoon safari in the park with our rangers on the lookout for wildlife with the remainder of the day at leisure in the resort.

Day 11 Ranthambore to Jaipur. After breakfast we drive to Jaipur. Originally the city's walls were the colour of red sandstone, Jaipur's universal coat of pink only came in 1876 to coincide with the visit of the Prince of Wales (King Edward VII). Almost the entire city was given a coat of pink paint, thus giving it the name 'The Pink City'. After checking into the Oberoi Rajvilas Hotel for a two night stay there will be time to relax and enjoy the hotel facilities before dinner this evening.

**Day 12 Jaipur.** This morning we explore Jaipur including the Jantar Mantar (Observatory), a collection of 19 astronomical instruments which were completed in 1734 by the Rajput ruler Sawai Jai Singh. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it has the world's largest stone sundial. Our tour will continue to the City Palace and the beautiful Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds). Constructed out of pink sandstone in 1799, it was designed to extend the chambers of the harem and allow royal ladies to observe everyday life in the street below without being seen. After lunch, enjoy a relaxing afternoon at leisure before we meet for a special dinner this evening.

Day 13 Jaipur to Varanasi. Drive this morning to the outskirts of the city to visit the Amber Fort, an extensive palace complex that was built with pale yellow and pink sandstone, and white marble, and is a fine example of Rajput architecture. From here we continue to the airport and our private plane for the short flight to Varanasi, one of India's most ancient cities and a major pilgrimage site. Its beauty lies in its centuries-old traditions, spectacular ghats, and narrow winding streets. It is a city full of beauty and history, known for its vibrant culture, colourful temples and old buildings. The River Ganges is the lifeblood of the city, and all along its banks, we will see millions of devotees visiting temples and offering prayers. On arrival in Varanasi we will transfer to the Taj Ganges for a two night stay. This evening, we will see the Aarti ceremony where prayers are offered to the goddess Ganga on the banks of the river. Later, we will be joined by a historian of Hinduism before dinner in the hotel. **Flight Time: 1 Hour, 55 mins – 13.00 to 14.05** 

**Day 14 Varanasi.** Early risers will have the option to join a cruise on the Ganges as we see the city come to life. Return to the hotel for breakfast and a leisurely morning to explore at your own pace. After lunch we will visit Sarnath where Buddha gave his first sermon to his first five disciples. We will see the Dhamek Stupa, the extensive ruins of an ancient monastery and the Archaeological Museum.

Day 15 Varanasi to Cochin. Return to the airport and our private plane this morning as we make our way south to Cochin, located in the state of Kerala. On arrival we will drive to the coastal town of Mararikullam and check into the Marari Beach Resort, our base for a three night stay. *Flight Time: 2 Hours, 30 mins – 11.00 to 13.30* 

Day 16 Kerala Backwaters. Spend the morning on board a traditional houseboat as we cruise the serene backwaters of Kerala. A backwater comprises of a unique web of rivers, lakes, bays, lagoons and canals extending into the villages and towns of the area. Relax on deck and enjoy the passing landscapes of colonial warehouses, paddy fields and coconut thatched houses whilst spotting birds and floating plants and observing scenes of daily life along the water. We will have lunch on board before returning to the hotel this afternoon. Later we will enjoy a Kalaripayattu show. This ancient martial art originated in Kerala in the 12th century and the word 'kalari' means battlefield and 'payattu' refers to 'become trained' or 'to practice'. After the show, dinner will be served in the hotel.

Day 17 Marari Beach. Today is free to relax in the hotel. Maybe spend time at the beach, sit by the pool or partake in one of the Ayuverda treatments offered in the spa. For our last night in Kerala we will enjoy a private performance of Kathakali, a classical Keralan dance form that combines literature, music, acting and elaborate costumes. We will see the performers as they apply the intricate make-up before the performance.

Day 18 Cochin to Mumbai. After breakfast we drive to Cochin, an extraordinary city with strong influences of Portuguese, Chinese, Arab, Dutch and British cultures still much in evidence today. The diverse mix of cultures and religions that together, with its strong trading past in spices and silks, make for a fascinating city. Discover Mattancherry Palace with

Elephanta



its ornately decorated rooms including some marvellous ancient murals. We will see the oldest European church in India, St Francis and the ruins of the fort. After lunch we transfer to airport and our private plane for the flight to Mumbai. We will arrive in the late afternoon and transfer to the Oberoi Hotel for a three night stay. Flight Time: 1 Hour, 35 mins - 15.00 to 16.35

Day 19 Mumbai. Mumbai is a cluster of seven islands which were first home to the 'Koli' fisherman, who still occupy parts of the city shoreline today. Mumbai was derived from 'Mumba' the name of the Hindu goddess 'Mumbadevi' and 'Aai' – mother in the local Marathi language. First ceded to the Portuguese, the British Government took possession of the islands in 1665 before leasing them to the East India Company who founded the port and saw the city grow in size and importance. This morning we explore the city and see the prominent landmarks visiting the Gateway of India, Mani Bhavan, the former residence of Mahatma Gandhi when he stayed in Mumbai from 1917 to 1934 and Dhobi Ghat where we can observe the vast open air Indian laundry. After lunch enjoy a leisurely afternoon to explore further at your own pace or relax and enjoy the hotel facilities before we meet for dinner this evening.

Day 20 Mumbai. Spend the morning on Gharapuri Island, better known as Elephanta Island and view the remarkable caves designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This labyrinth of cave temples features courtyards, shrines, remarkable statues and vibrant sculptures that date from the 5th to 7th century AD. Return to the hotel for some free time and our final dinner in India which will be served at the hotel's Ziya Restaurant operated by Michelin starred chef Vineet Bhatia.

Day 21 Mumbai to Luxor, Egypt. We leave India this morning as we rejoin our private plane and fly to Luxor arriving in the early afternoon. Transfer to the Sofitel Winter Palace Hotel and enjoy a leisurely afternoon relaxing at the hotel on the banks of the Nile. Alternatively you may wish to join our guides and visit the Luxor souk. We will meet this evening for our farewell dinner.

### Flight Time: 6 Hours, 35 mins - 10.00 to 13.05

Day 22 Luxor to London Stansted. After breakfast there will be the opportunity to visit Karnak Temple, where you will witness the vast array of monuments dedicated to Amun-Ra, king of the gods, his wife Mut and their son Khonsu. Just two of the highlights you will see are the great hypostyle hall with over 130 columns, some 22 metres high and the obelisk of the powerful Queen Pharaoh Hatshepsut. After our visit we continue to the airport for the final flight aboard our private plane to London Stansted Inflite Jet Centre arriving in the late afternoon. If you have parked at the Jet Centre, you will have direct access to your car, alternatively a transfer will take you to Stansted Airport Train Station. Flight Time: 5 Hours, 50 mins - 13.00 to 16.50



### PRICES PER PERSON Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £2000 PER PERSON		
BROCHURE PRICE	SPECIAL OFFER PRICE	

Twin: £39,995	Twin: £37,995
Single: £44,995	Single: £42,995

PRICE INCLUDES: Flights aboard privately chartered plane in business class style seats • 21 nights hotel accommodation in five-star (or best available) hotels • All meals inclusive of drinks • All guided excursions • All transfers • All porterage • Noble Caledonia Team • All gratuities • All taxes.

Noble Caledonia will also be carbon offsetting the air travel on behalf of all those travelling.

Not Included: Travel insurance, India visa, Egyptian visa.

### Radisson Blu Hotel, London Stansted

If you would prefer to join us at the Private Jet Terminal on 5th November (Day 2 of itinerary) prior to our first flight, we can offer a rebate for the first night's accommodation. Please advise at the time of booking and we will adjust your reservation accordingly.

Visa Information: A visa is required for British passport holders for India (an E-visa can be applied for before travel for fee of approximately £25) and Egypt which we hope to arrange on arrival. Noble Caledonia will provide all supporting documentation needed for passengers to arrange their visas. This information is correct at the time of printing and should the information change, we will be in touch with booked passengers with updated guidelines.

NB: Itinerary is subject to change. Flight departure and arrival times shown are local, are provisional and subject to change. During the tour all drinks with meals are included, however please note there will be certain days during our tour where, due to local customs, we are unable to include alcohol. In these cases a range of nonalcoholic drinks will be served.

# EXOTIC INDIA -HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Below are details of the hotels we will be using for our journey around India. We have selected a range of conveniently located hotels which are all five-star or best available. Our first evening will be based at the Radisson Blu Hotel, London Stansted where you can meet your fellow travellers and the Noble Caledonia team before we transfer the following morning to the private jet terminal.



### MARRIOTT HOTEL, TBILISI, GEORGIA

Located in an elegant historic building, Tbilisi Marriott Hotel is an architectural landmark with a unique, circular design and provides a truly memorable backdrop for visits to Georgia's unique capital city. Immaculately appointed rooms feature soundproof windows, highspeed internet access and marble bathrooms with jetted tubs. Parnas Cafe offers delicious Georgian and global cuisine; Majestic Lounge & Bar serves light bites and craft cocktails. There is also a 24-hour fitness centre. The hotel is ideally located just a few moments from attractions and landmarks including Liberty Square, Narikala Fortress and the Parliament of Georgia.



### ITC MAURYA, NEW DELHI, INDIA

A landmark in itself, ITC Maurya has been acknowledged as the preferred residence of visiting dignitaries from across the world for 40 years and epitomises the luxury hotel experience in New Delhi. The hotel is situated in the capital's exclusive Diplomatic Enclave in Chanakyapuri and offers an enviable view of the green ridge. This luxury hotel offers 437 well-appointed rooms offering all mod cons and the hotel facilities include five restaurants, most notably the internationally acclaimed Bukhara for Indian north-west cuisine, as well as two bars. For guests' wellbeing, the hotel has an advanced air purification system and a superb on-site spa, Kaya Kalp, offering a range of Ayurvedic and holistic therapies.



### TAJ SWARNA, AMRITSAR, INDIA

Taj Swarna, Amritsar is located in the heart of Amritsar and embodies the best of the Punjab's iconic history, art and culture. Renowned for its impeccable and friendly service, from the moment you step into the elegant lobby you will feel welcomed. Combining contemporary design with traditional elegance, this five-star hotel features 155 spacious rooms with luxury amenities and locally inspired design. The hotel offers three restaurants, one delivering authentic cuisine and the opportunity to sample local delicacies and another providing Chinese fare. The beautiful Jiva Spa offers award-winning wellness treatments and there is also a gym and a lovely outdoor pool.



### TAJ SAWAI, RANTHAMBORE, INDIA

Taj Sawai offers a haven of tranquillity with 60 distinctive rooms meticulously designed to envelop you in luxury after an exhilarating adventure in the wilderness. Each of the spacious rooms emanates a warm and inviting atmosphere, accentuated by the lush greenery just outside your window. The hotel features two signature restaurants, the all-day dining retreat, 'Machan' and 'Tropics'. The Whiskey Lounge Bar offers a cosy ambience of a rustic woodside cabin. The spa unveils onto a private outdoor deck, revealing an uninterrupted panorama of the serene Talai waterbody. Adorned with exquisite drapery and embellished with the local artistry of applique, this sanctuary becomes the epitome of soulful luxury.



### OBEROI RAJVILAS, JAIPUR, INDIA

The Oberoi Rajvilas is a five-star resort spread over 1,29,499 square metres of beautifully landscaped gardens, with traditional architecture, flaming mashaal torches and reflection pools. The elegant rooms are decorated in a relaxing natural palette and feature a canopied four poster bed, a cushioned window seat, a sunken marble bathtub with private courtyard views and a walk in wardrobe. The hotel's restaurants serve authentic Rajasthani and international cuisine, and the hotel bar is a comfortable space with a classic ambience, the perfect setting for an aperitif or an after dinner beverage. The Oberoi Spa offers a range of treatments and there is also a temperature controlled pool and an airconditioned fitness centre.



### TAJ GANGES, VARANASI, INDIA

The five-star Taj Ganges is a peaceful getaway in the sacred city of Varanasi and features 130 contemporary rooms spread over 42 acres of lush, tropical gardens. The hotel's fine dining restaurants rank amongst the best in the city, serving international cuisines as well as sumptuous thalis that celebrate the region's soulful food culture, inspired by produce from the hotel's own organic garden. The bedrooms are spacious and well-equipped and the Lobby Lounge and Prinsep Bar offer relaxing spaces in which to enjoy a beverage. There is also a gym, swimming pool and spa offering a variety of treatments.



### MARARI BEACH RESORT, MARAIKILLAM, INDIA

Marari Beach Resort offers a seaside village experience set on 30 acres. The resort's layout and cottages reflect the traditional fishing villages of the area known for their simplicity and elegant charm. The spacious and airy villas feature mostly local materials and authentic thatched roofing along with full length windows, partly opened bathrooms and garden views. Guests can savour the fresh catch of the day grilled to perfection at the Beach Grill Restaurant and indulge in multi-cuisine delicacies at Chakara Restaurant. There is a large saltwater swimming pool where you can cool off, lawn tennis courts and the opportunity to attend yoga classes. For a truly relaxing experience you can try the Ayurvedic massage services.





### OBEROI, MUMBAI, INDIA

The five-star Oberoi Hotel in Mumbai offers spacious accommodation, fine cuisines and a genuine hospitality. The spacious rooms overlook the city and include king size bed, a walk in wardrobe and a writing desk. The all day restaurant offers Indian and international cuisine whilst Ziya is a specialist modern Indian restaurant with menus by Michelin star chef Cineet Bhatia. The chic Eau Bar features Art Deco themed interiors, an outdoor deck with ocean views and live music. The hotel's swimming pool is located in a private courtyard where drinks and snacks are served during the day. There is also a fitness centre and Oberoi Spa.

### SOFITEL WINTER PALACE, LUXOR, EGYPT

The Sofitel Winter Palace is one of Egypt's most iconic hotels. Built in 1886 the hotel is a beacon of old-world charm where French regency elegance and the mystique of the River Nile combine to ravishing effect. Set amid luxuriant gardens by the Nile, this illustrious hotel is located within minutes of Luxor Temple. The Royal Bar and Victorian Lounge offer luxurious surroundings in which to relax whilst outside you can enjoy a beverage in the Central Park Bar or on the Nile Terrace. There are four restaurants at the hotel offering a variety of cuisines. The pool area is truly stunning, evoking the feeling of a private oasis it is surrounded by palm trees, and offers a tranquil and relaxing atmosphere where guests can unwind and enjoy their surroundings.







# NOBLE CALEDONIA

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All special offers are subject to availability. Itinerary and accommodation is subject to change. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Cover image: Tigers Nest Monastery, Bhutan.