

PRINCELY INDIA

A journey from Delhi to Mumbai
including a seven night stay aboard the luxurious
Maharajas' Express Private Train



NOBLE CALEDONIA

A trip to India is no ordinary travel experience. For a start the sheer size of the subcontinent can be a daunting prospect when considering which region to visit. There are countless tours available that fly from one city to another, abruptly introducing you to cultural and architectural contrasts that can be bewildering and in many ways unfulfilling. In our view, India needs to be absorbed slowly and at eye-level in order for the experience to be enjoyable and enlightening. Join us for this spectacular journey across India by luxurious private train. Imagine a rail journey in the style of royalty, experiencing the mesmerising wonders of India from the palatial surroundings of your luxuriously appointed private cabin aboard the Maharajas' Express. While travelling between destinations, and after a day of exploration, you can return to the train and relax on board amid state-of-the-art comforts, enjoying the finest cuisine and discretely attentive service.

From Delhi to Mumbai, we will travel through a land steeped in fascinating history and culture and view some truly awe-inspiring architecture. So much of India is out of reach due to vast distances by road however, from aboard our travelling hotel we can enjoy the changing landscapes, experience local traditions and observe daily life. Local guides will enhance our journey as we enjoy private tours of palaces and cities. From Imperial Delhi and the vibrant bustling city of Mumbai to the amazing architectural treasures of the Taj Mahal and Jaipur, we will travel with ease, enjoying first-class service and accommodation.

In addition to our train journey, there is the opportunity to join a seven night extension to Cochin, the most cosmopolitan city of Kerala, with two nights to experience the backwaters of Kerala, and one night on a houseboat to truly explore the tranquil network of lagoons, lakes and rivers.



The Amber Fort, Jaipur

OUR VIEW

Alexia Williams, Product Manager for our land tours experienced a few nights aboard the Maharajas' Express:

My first impression of India was of vibrancy, colour, hustle and bustle. In stark contrast is the peaceful calm of the wonderfully opulent Maharajas' Express. An experience guaranteed to stay in your memory forever. A grand welcome at Delhi's Safdarjung Railway station, the first of many red carpets, girls offering scarlet bindis and fragrant garlands of flowers, traditional music and welcome drinks. The train itself is grand, royal and exclusive.

In the heyday of the Maharajas it was not unusual for royalty to travel with their furniture – four poster beds, thrones, dining tables. This is certainly the aim of the train, to recreate a bygone era of decadence and elegance. The staff are faultless and a butler is available 24 hours, just in case you fancy a midnight masala chai. The food is truly five-star with a selection of beautifully presented Indian and European dishes. Among the highlights is an early morning visit to the breathtaking Taj Mahal, before the huge crowds descend, followed by a champagne breakfast with wonderful views of the monument and a Royal welcome in Jaipur preceding a lavish dinner.



Jantar Mantar Observatory, Jaipur



Mughal Emperor Humayun's tomb, New Delhi



Royal Bengal Tiger, Ranthambore National Park



Courtyard of the City Palace, Udaipur

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Champagne breakfast at the Taj Khema overlooking the Taj Mahal
- Spot the elusive tiger in the Ranthambore National Park
- A Royal Welcome and lavish dinner at Jai Mahal Palace Hotel, Jaipur
- Experience sundowner cocktails on the sand dunes in Bikaner
- Enjoy a Gala Dinner at Hanwant Mahal, Jodhpur
- Indulge in a Royal Lunch in Udaipur

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Delhi, India. Fly by scheduled flight to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi. Arrive in Delhi and transfer to the luxurious Shangri-La Eros Hotel for a two night stay. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

Day 3 Old & New Delhi. Our morning tour will begin with a visit to Raj Ghat, a simple memorial to Mahatma Gandhi; drive past the magnificent Red Fort overlooking the river Yamuna which was built during the years 1638-48 when the Mughal Empire was at its peak. We continue to Jama Masjid, one of Asia's largest mosques which we will view from the outside. This afternoon enjoy a sightseeing tour of New Delhi which will include the Qutub Minar, the tallest stone tower in India and Humayun's tomb, the first garden tomb on the Indian subcontinent which inspired several major architectural innovations, culminating in the construction of the Taj Mahal.

Day 4 Maharajas' Express. Enjoy the morning at leisure before being welcomed aboard the Maharajas' Express. We assemble at Safdarjung Railway station and complete registration and check in formalities for the Maharajas' Express whilst enjoying a welcome drink. Once on board, there will be time to relax and familiarise yourself with the luxury surroundings of our private train. Enjoy dinner on board before we depart Delhi this evening.

Day 5 Agra. Arrive in the city of the Taj Mahal, the monument of love and one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Agra is also known for its fabulous handicrafts made of marble and soft stone inlay work. Early this morning, we disembark and proceed to the Taj Mahal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It took the efforts of approximately 20,000 craftsmen over the course of 22 years and the passion of Shah Jahan to create this white marble masterpiece. The Taj Mahal was created by Shah Jahan in fond memory of his beloved queen Mumtaz Mahal. The visit is followed by a Champagne breakfast atop Taj Khema gazing at the Taj Mahal. After breakfast we return

to the train or you can join an optional activity - spa at a hotel, visit to Itmad-ud-daula or a private shopping tour. After a leisurely lunch on board we visit the magnificent Agra Fort which was built during an era marked by invasions and fortifications, where power was symbolised by grand palaces and grander forts. The mighty towers and overwhelming facades instilling fear and awe in the bravest of the brave. Return to the comfort of the train as we continue our journey to Ranthambore National Park.

Day 6 Ranthambore National Park & Jaipur. We arrive in Sawai Madhopur early this morning in preparation for our safari in Ranthambore National Park. Ranthambore, the private hunting ground of the Maharajas, was declared a National Park in 1973. Whilst a safari here cannot be compared to that of Africa, we will hopefully spot some of the wildlife which includes tigers, sambar, chital, nilgai, chinkara, wild boar, sloth bear, hyena, jackal and leopard and if fortunate we may see the elusive tiger or the shy leopard. We return to the train for breakfast and continue our journey to the 'Pink City' of Jaipur which was built by Raja Jai Singh in the 18th century, and is renowned for its magnificent palaces, forts and temples. After lunch we visit the Jantar Mantar (Observatory), a collection of 19 astronomical instruments, built in 138 C.E. by the Rajput ruler Sawai Jai Singh. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage site, it has the world's largest stone sundial. You will have the opportunity to shop for some of the finest jewellery, textiles and blue pottery for which the city is renowned and after lunch there will be a choice of optional tours. We complete the day with a Royal welcome at Jai Mahal Palace where we have the opportunity to indulge with the elephants – paint them, feed them and enjoy a ride. This is followed by a Cocktail Dinner. After dinner, return to the train for your onward journey towards Bikaner.



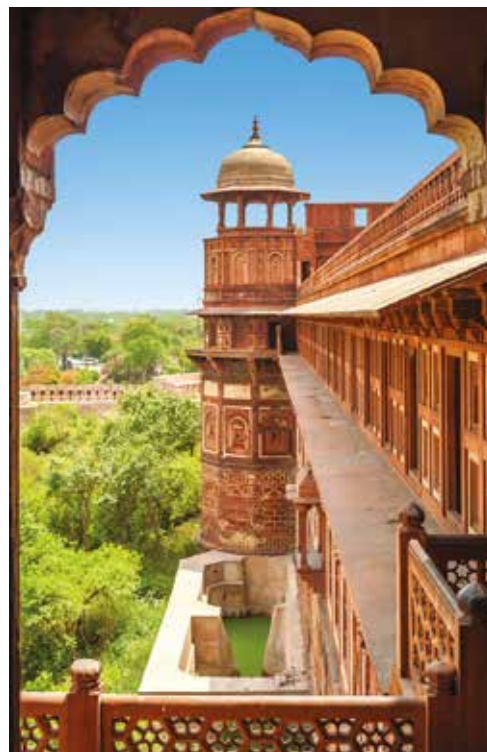
Taj Mahal, Agra



Camel train in the Thar Desert near Bikaner



Wall painting at Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur



Agra Fort

Day 7 Bikaner. Late this morning we arrive in the desert citadel of Bikaner which was once a major centre in the cross-desert caravan trade. Also, known as Camel Country, Bikaner has the best riding camels in the world. Bikaner's forts, palaces and temples made in red and yellow sandstone are living reflections of its rich historical and architectural legacy. Relax on board or you may choose optional activities - visit the Lalgarh Palace Museum displaying some fascinating exhibits on the royal heritage of Bikaner or take an excursion to the Karni Mata Temple in Deshnoh also known as "Rat Temple". This temple complex has hundreds of rats swarming the courtyard, an integral part of the temple rituals and customs as they are considered very sacred. Enjoy lunch on board and this afternoon visit the Junagarh Fort, an unassailable fortress built in 1593 A.D. by Raja Rai Singh. Participate in a camel-cart procession followed by sundowner cocktails, barbeque and mesmerising folk performances on the sand dunes. After a great evening return to the comfort of your train and embark on your onward journey to Jodhpur.

Day 8 Jodhpur. This morning, the Maharajas' Express enters the Marwar region. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast on board as you pass through some of the picturesque landscapes of the Thar Desert, arriving into the Blue City of Jodhpur. Enjoy a morning at leisure or take an optional tour - Bishnoi village or an excursion to Umaid Bhawan Palace and Jaswant Thada. After lunch on board we explore the erstwhile capital of Marwar, Jodhpur, famous for its magnificent forts and palaces and home to some of the finest architectural wonders. We visit the Mehrangarh Fort followed by a walking tour of the Old Clock Tower market. Enjoy a rickshaw ride. Later, enjoy a Royal cocktail evening at Hanwant Mahal with folk dance and music and sumptuous Marwar culinary delights. Return to the train and continue our journey to Udaipur.

Day 9 Udaipur. This morning wake up with a view of the picturesque region of Mewar from your window. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast on board while admiring the magnificent landscape of the Aravali Hills. Udaipur is popularly referred to as the Venice of the East with an enchanting image of white marble palaces, placid lakes and green hills. Udaipur is one of India's greatest destinations with the picturesque havelis, ghats and temples along Lake Pichola and the lively bazaars. Today we proceed with a boat ride on Lake Pichola followed by a visit to the City Palace, the largest palace complex in Rajasthan, with its scalloped arches, fretted balconies, and cupolas. Later visit the Crystal Gallery. The Udaipur collection of crystal is one of the largest and most complete collections of Osler cut glass in existence. For lunch today we experience the Royal hospitality at a Satkar Hall of Fateh Prakash Palace with a spread of international cuisine. After lunch, return to the train for a relaxed afternoon on board or explore further at leisure. Later in the afternoon you can join a walking tour through the Old Market of Udaipur.

Day 10 Balasinor. The tiny town called Balasinor in Gujarat is home to one of the largest dinosaur fossil sites in the world. Paleontologists believe that at least seven species of dinosaur lived here and researchers have uncovered fossils of about 10,000 dinosaur eggs, making Raiyoli the third largest hatchery in the world. The site was discovered accidentally in 1981 when geologists were conducting a mineral survey of the area. Visit the Dinosaur Fossil Park, followed by a village visit and rounded off by a lunch meeting with the Royal Family to relish their unique cuisine. After lunch we continue towards Mumbai for the last leg of our journey.

Day 11 Mumbai. Arrive into Mumbai and bid farewell to the Maharajas' Express after breakfast, before transferring to the luxurious Oberoi Mumbai for an overnight stay. In the morning we visit the Elephanta Caves, hewn out of solid rock, the complex is a collection of shrines, courtyards, inner cells, grand halls and porticos arranged in the splendid symmetry of Indian rock-cut architecture and filled with exquisite stone sculptures of Hindu Gods and Goddesses. It is situated on Gharapuri Island in Mumbai's harbour about an hour's boat ride from the Gateway of India. In the afternoon we take a city tour of Mumbai covering Marine Drive, Gateway of India, Victoria Terminus Station, Dhobi Ghat, Prince of Wales Museum followed by a walk in the Kala Ghoda Area.

Day 12 Mumbai to London. After a relaxing morning at leisure we transfer to Mumbai airport for the return scheduled flight to London.

2017/2018 DEPARTURE DATES AND PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

4th to 15th January, 1st to 12th February, 1st to 12th March,
11th to 22nd October, 8th to 19th November 2017;
10th to 21st January, 7th to 18th February, 7th to 18th March 2018

	2017	2018
Deluxe Cabin	£6995	£7195
Junior Suite	£9395	£9595
Suite	£12195	£12395
Presidential Suite	£20395	£20595
Deluxe Cabin for sole use	£10395	£10595
Junior Suite for sole use	£14695	£14895

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, two nights hotel accommodation in Delhi and one night in Mumbai on a bed and breakfast basis, seven nights aboard the Maharajas' Express on full board, excursions as listed, local guides, transfers, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, optional excursions, visas, gratuities.

NB. Itinerary and dining venues subject to change.

KERALA POST-TOUR EXTENSION

15th to 22nd January, 12th to 19th February, 12th to 19th March, 22nd to 29th October, 19th to 26th November 2017;
21st to 28th January, 18th to 25th February, 18th to 25th March 2018

The Itinerary

Day 12 Mumbai to Kochi. After breakfast transfer to Mumbai airport to board your flight to Kochi. You will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel, the Eighth Bastion for a two night stay. This evening enjoy a Kathakali dance performance, the traditional dance form of Kerala.

Day 13 Kochi. Enjoy sightseeing of the town in the morning. We visit the Jewish Synagogue, built in 1568 which is magnificently decorated by Chinese tiles and Belgian chandeliers. Giant scrolls of the Old Testament can be found here. St. Francis Church is the oldest church built by Europeans in India. Later in the day enjoy a sunset cruise to view the Chinese fishing nets. The Chinese fishing nets that line the sea-front and exhibit a mechanical method of catching fish by local fishermen in Fort Kochi were introduced in Fort Kochi by the Chinese explorer, Zheng He. They were brought from the court of Chinese Emperor, Kublai Khan many and are still used today at high tide. Enjoy viewing this very unusual and splendid fishing technique at the backdrop of splendid sunlight.

Day 14 Kochi to Munnar. Travel to Munnar this morning and transfer to the Windermere Estate for a two night stay. Tucked away in sunny, tropical Kerala is a cool green paradise. One thousand six hundred metres above sea-level, Munnar is situated at the confluence of three mountain streams, the Mudrapuzha, the Nallathann and the Kundla. It was once a summer retreat for the Europeans who traded here. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 15 Munnar. Munnar is responsible for a good portion of south India's tea production and a nature lover's paradise, it's a picture book town with winding lanes and heady fragrance of fresh tea. The highest peak in South India, Anamudi, towers nearby and is generally covered in blankets of clouds. This morning we visit the tea plantations and the museum. Stop by at local markets where you can buy some freshly packed tea and spices. Rest of the day is at leisure to enjoy the surrounding area.

Day 16 Munnar to Alleppey. Travel to Alleppey where we enjoy a cruise along the backwaters to Kumarakom observing village life. We enjoy an overnight stay on a Houseboat.

Days 17 & 18 Kumarakom to Mararikulam. This morning we transfer to Mararikulam. On arrival check-in to the Marari Beach Resort for a two night stay in a Garden Villa and spend the rest of the afternoon and following day relaxing at the resort.

Day 19 Mararikulam to Kochi to Mumbai to London. Transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight to Mumbai and onward to London.



Chinese fishing nets at sunset, Fort Kochi



Tea plantation, Munnar

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

	2017	2018
Twin:	£1695	£1895
Single:	£2895	£2995

Price Includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, six nights hotel accommodation on bed and breakfast basis, overnight accommodation on a houseboat on full board basis, excursions as detailed, local guides, transfers, airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, visas, gratuities.



Houseboat on the backwaters of Alleppey

MAHARAJAS' EXPRESS

Launched in March 2010, the Maharajas Express is the Ultimate way to experience India. Designed to recreate the elegance and pageantry of the personal carriages of erstwhile Maharajas, the interiors of this luxury train are suffused with nostalgia. Accommodating 88 passengers, there are five carriages for Deluxe cabins, six for Junior Suites, two for Suites and one for the Presidential Suite.

Your Accommodation

Every cabin features large panoramic windows - a design marvel developed by the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai so that you can savour every bit of magnificent India. All passenger cabins are en-suite and come with individual temperature controls, the first of its kind in India and have state-of-the-art facilities including electronic safety deposit box, LCD televisions, DVD players, direct dial telephone and internet, to name a few. In-house movies and live television also keep you entertained through the royal journey. Towels and linen are changed daily or as per your request and complimentary tea, coffee, mineral water and light snacks are available at all times. Bathrobes, slippers, toiletries and a hairdryer are also provided in the cabins for your comfort.

- **20 Deluxe Cabins:** Cabin area 112 sqft, twin/double bed cabins with attached bathroom with shower cubicle.
- **18 Junior Suites:** Cabin area 150 sqft, twin/double bed cabins with a writing table and attached bathroom with shower cubicle.
- **4 Suites:** Cabin area 220 sqft, double bed with separate living and bed room areas, attached bathroom with bath tub.
- **1 Presidential Suite:** Cabin area 448 sqft, two bedrooms, two attached bathrooms (one with bath tub), a living/dining room.

Your Dining

There are two gracefully appointed restaurants on board which can seat all passengers. Meals are of the highest standard and house brands of wine, beer and spirits are complimentary whilst on board. Menus are an eclectic mix of delectable cuisines which can be enjoyed in comfortable surroundings.

Your Space

The Safari Bar is a well-stocked bar offering a large choice of premium wine, beer and spirits for purchase accompanied with complimentary snacks. The Rajah Club with en-suite bar is equipped with games tables and club arm-chairs in which to relax and enjoy the laid back atmosphere. There is also a boutique on board where you can purchase gifts and souvenirs of your voyage.

Life On Board

To enhance your experience, during our journey there are unforgettable one-of-a kind Gala experiences showcasing the princely destinations combined with culinary delicacies served at some exquisite palaces. On board there is a dedicated team of butlers to attend to your every need. Each carriage is manned by a single butler, on call 24-hours, trained to meet the needs of our guests and comply with utmost speed and efficiency. The butlers take pride in offering unique services to each guest ensuring a memorable stay on board.



Breakfast in the Rang Mahal dining room



Deluxe cabin with twin beds



Junior Suite with double bed



Presidential Suite



Rajah Club bar



Mayur Mahal dining room

NOBLE CALEDONIA

2 Chester Close, Belgravia, London, SW1X 7BE
+44 (0)20 7752 0000 | info@noble-caledonia.co.uk | www.noble-caledonia.co.uk



Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.

Cover image: Taj Mahal, Agra