

Topdeck

DELVE DEEP: NORTHERN INDIA



TRIP CODE:
TNIDD2

TOPDECKER, meet Asia (TD)

TRIP VIBE = iconic sights and in-depth adventures with a local Trip Leader. They say you don't travel India; you experience it. Brace for sensory overload. Anticipate awe-inspiring sights. Prepare for mesmerising landscapes. And equip yourself for a culture shock of the very best kind. India is everything you heard, and so, so much more. Time to experience it with an awesome crew of people on a 10-day trip that may just change your life.

WORTH NOTING...

A Sector trip is part of a larger journey, meaning your new friends might continue on or after you leave, or you might be joining a trip already in progress.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Delve Deep



Nights



Android/iPhone
app download
info



This is a sector
trip.

Hi, and thanks for choosing to holiday with Topdeck

You can rest assured that we'll pull out all the stops to make your trip unforgettable.

Now it's time to get excited about your holiday...

ABOUT YOUR TRIP NOTES

These Trip Notes contain everything you need to know before your trip departs – including where to meet and what to bring. We recommend that you read these notes thoroughly so you know what to expect on your trip of a lifetime. Also, you can easily download and print this document off so you can bring it with you when you travel.

Please bear in mind that some points should be taken as a guide only – after all, everyone's different! For example, daily spending money and clothing lists can vary from one person to the next, so don't be alarmed if you don't expect to spend (or even wear) so much!

PLEASE NOTE: We strongly urge you to refresh this document as close to the time of your departure as possible to ensure you have the most up-to-date accommodation list and information available.

ON THE BUCKET LIST (INCLUDED)

- + Walking tour of Old Delhi with Trip Leader
- + Cycle rickshaw experience in Chandni Chowk
- + Visit Qutab Minar
- + Visit Agra Fort
- + Sunrise at the Taj Mahal
- + Visit Chand Baori Stepwell
- + Visit Amber Fort (jeep ride included)
- + Movie tickets for Raj Mandir Bollywood Cinema
- + Local train ride from Jaipur to Jodhpur
- + Visit Mehrangarh Fort
- + Visit Ranakpur Temple
- + Walking tour of Udaipur with Trip Leader
- + Sunset cruise on Lake Pichola
- + Traditional cooking class (including lunch) in Udaipur
- + Overnight train from Udaipur to Delhi

MORE INCLUSIONS

- + Airport transfers
- + Walking tour of Old Delhi with Trip Leader
- + Visit Qutub Minar
- + Cycle rickshaw experience in Chandni Chowk
- + Visit Agra Fort
- + See sunrise at the Taj Mahal
- + Visit Chand Baori Stepwell
- + Visit Amber Fort (jeep ride included)
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YOUR TRIP WILL

YOUR TRIP WILL

TRIP CURRENCIES

START

PICK UP:

Delhi
India

FINISH

DROP OFF:

Delhi
India

+ India -



YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 | DELHI (INDIA)

An intoxicating mix of colours, chaos and character – India’s capital is the definition of overwhelming. Lucky you’ve got your Topdeck Rep ready to greet you as soon as you touch down. Welcome to Delhi! Weave through the craziness of cars, rickshaws, scooters and people. Dump your stuff at the hotel. And say g’day to your trip mates. We might be a mixed bunch, but we’re all in it together – the way it was meant to be. Tonight, dinner’s on us so tuck in – this is gonna be a trip to remember.



MEALS:

+ Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Airport transfers

DAY 2 | DELHI

Ready to delve deeper into this energetic city? We thought so. First: a walking tour through Old Delhi – ticking off the likes of Jama Masjid mosque (the largest in India, just sayin’) and bustling Khari Baoli spice market. Then, we’ll give the legs a rest and jump aboard an exciting (nail-biting) cycle rickshaw ride through Chandni Chowk market. Later, we’re off to check out the mesmerising Qutub Minar – the tallest brick minaret in the world. What you do tonight is totally up to you, but if you need suggestions Connaught Place is THE place for delicious street food. Tikka roll, anyone?



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of Old Delhi with Trip Leader
- + Visit Qutub Minar
- + Cycle rickshaw experience in Chandni Chowk

DAY 3 | DELHI – AGRA

Leave the hectic streets of Delhi behind as we make tracks for magical Agra. Channel your inner Maharajah as we explore Agra Fort with our expert Trip Leader. There’s a reason this red-washed fortress is considered one of the finest in India – soak it all in. Then: time to satisfy your inner foodie with an optional chaat crawl. Chaat got you WTF-ing? Just think: savoury street snacks, deep fried to deliciousness and topped with tangy sauces. It’s fast food – just spicier. Still hungry? Get the gang together to hunt down the city’s best paratha. Your Trip Leader will know where.



MEALS:

+ Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

+ Visit Agra Fort



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

+ Chaat crawl: from 10 USD

DAY 4 | AGRA – CHAND BAORI – JAIPUR

This is it. That goosebump-generating moment that you'll remember for a lifetime. Watch as the dawn light illuminates the famous Taj Mahal with a spellbinding golden glow and take a moment – yep, you're actually here. Once you've soaked up all the wanderlust vibes it's onwards to Chand Baori Stepwell. Like one giant stairmaster, this baby is the largest stepwell in the world – with 13 stories made up of 3,500 steps arranged in perfect symmetry. This arvo we'll roll into the 'Pink City', where an optional cooking class with a local family is on the cards, if you're keen. Rather explore Jaipur solo? Hire a tuk-tuk and immerse yourself in this dazzling city by night.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + See sunrise at the Taj Mahal
- + Visit Chand Baori Stepwell



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Cooking class (including dinner) in Jaipur: from 30 USD

DAY 5 | JAIPUR

Another day, another amazing ancient fortress to explore. We'll take a 4x4 jeep through the winding alleyways to the gates of Amber Fort, before discovering the extensive complex of colourful rooms and lush courtyards with our in-the-know Trip Leader. After, the afternoon is free to do your own spontaneous this-is-what-I-came-here-for thing. Check out the incredible Hawa Mahal – hint: get the best photo from the cafe/tattoo parlour opposite. Show off your Grade A bartering technique (or not) at Johari Bazaar. Or sample some authentic Rajasthani food at Thali House. Then? We're hitting the cinema – Bollywood style! *Heads up! If you're here for Holi festival in March we'll celebrate the REAL way – taking part in rituals, street festivals and colour-filled parties. There's also an extra included lunch in store on this day. We'll work the sightseeing around the festivities, don't worry.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Amber Fort (jeep ride included)
- + Tickets for Raj Mandir Bollywood Cinema

DAY 6 | JAIPUR – JODHPUR

Disclaimer: today has an early wake up call. BUT we're gonna feel like proper locals taking the train from the 'Pink City' to the 'Blue City' (feeling a theme here?). So, pull out the UNO cards or catch up on some zzzs – we'll be there in no time. First up: the magnificent Mehrangarh Fort. Towering over the old city, Mehrangarh was chiseled from the rocky cliff face where it stands. Sick, right? Later, explore the tangle of blue cube houses, winding medieval streets and buzzing bazaars in the Old Town, before tucking into dinner overlooking the fort lit up like Christmas. This is livin'.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Local train ride from Jaipur to Jodhpur
- + Visit Mehrangarh Fort

DAY 7 | JODHPUR – RANAKPUR – UDAIPUR

After breakfast, give a silent salute to Jodhpur as we roll onto Udaipur. But first: a pit stop at Ranakpur. Home to one of the most significant Jain temples in India, you're gonna want your cameras charged for this one. Once you're done gawping like a loon at the intricate geometric patterns of the temple pillars we'll move on. Tonight, this beautiful lakeside city is yours for the taking. Wander the city's romantic centre and discover why they call this place the 'Jewel of Rajasthan'. Head to Millets of Mewar for their drool-worthy aubergine (eggplant) curry. Then, gather the fam and hunt down a local bar with views over the lake.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Visit Ranakpur Temple

DAY 8 | UDAIPUR

Say namaste to a full day uncovering the magic of this place. Kick things off with an optional yoga class to align those chakras. Then we'll explore Udaipur's quaint crooked streets and colourful bazaars with our fact-filled Trip Leader, ticking off the likes of Jagdish Temple and City Palace. Later: we'll set sail on super-scenic Lake Pichola for a sunset cruise. And once night has fallen, it's time to head to a local eatery for our final group dinner. What. A. Day.



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Dinner



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Walking tour of Udaipur with Trip Leader
- + Sunset cruise on Lake Pichola



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Yoga class: from 30 USD

DAY 9 | UDAIPUR – DELHI

Nobody panic, but this is our last full day together. So don't waste a second. FORTunately (we went there) there's an optional day trip to Kumbhalgarh Fort on offer. Snaking its way around the surrounding hills, this immense 15th-century fortress has earned the nickname 'the Great Wall of India'. Or soak up all the tranquil rural vibes on an optional cycling tour through Udaipur's neighbouring villages – complete with sunrise over the lake and a piping cup of roadside chai. Mmm. And for lunch? If you've stuck around the city it's DIY time as we learn how to rustle up some authentic Udaipuri dishes at an included cooking class. Those mad chef skills are sure gonna come in useful back home. Tonight: we're jumping on the sleeper train back to electrifying Delhi. Shotgun top bunk!



MEALS:

- + Breakfast
- + Lunch



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Traditional cooking class with lunch
- + Overnight train from Udaipur to Delhi



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

- + Day trip to Kumbhalgarh Fort: prices available locally
- + Cycling tour: from 35 USD

DAY 10 | DELHI

You came. You saw. You cultured. Hop off the train and swap those socials – you're gonna need them for next year's reunion trip. Sticking around? We don't blame you. This place is filled with hidden gems waiting to be discovered. Or: jump straight on a Delve Deep trip to Sri Lanka – it works out perfectly, we checked. You know you want to...



INCLUDED TODAY:

- + Airport transfers

TIPPING

NO TIP NECESSARY

Your Topdeck Trip Leaders and Drivers never expect tips, and they won't ask for any either. We also know how much tipping can cost you. So go ahead – spoil yourself with the money you save traveling with us (just don't forget Mum's souvenir).

TOPDECK TRAVEL APP

Our app is available to download before you travel. With a range of cool features including a currency converter, budget planner, check-in tool and group chat, it'll help you plan your trip like a pro. Think of it as your very own Topdeck Trip Leader in the palm of your hand.

TRIP GROUP CHAT

Connect with your fellow Topdeckers before you depart and begin your magical friendship in the flash of a winking face emoji.

ITINERARY VIEWER

Get the lowdown on where you'll be going and what activities you'll be doing on each day of your trip with this handy little tool.

CHECK-IN

Plug in all your vital deets and we'll keep them safe for when you really need them. Making your life easier, one swipe at a time.

BUDGET TRACKER

Keep an eye on your holiday spending, leaving you with more FUN-ds to play with. Think: elaborate Spanish feasts (not questionable supermarket sandwiches).

MAPS

Navigate your way to meeting points and lesser-known local gems using pins dropped by your Trip Leader, seek out your own bucket list sites and take to the streets like a pro.

Once the trip is over, you'll need the app to give us feedback about your trip experience. We love to hear what you thought about your trip, as it helps to give us an idea of the things we're doing well and the things we could be doing better.

PLEASE NOTE: The Topdeck Travel App should only be downloaded once you have booked your trip. You will not be able to log in unless you have a Topdeck booking reference number.

[GET IT FOR IPHONE](#)

[GET IT FOR ANDROID](#)



PASSENGER SAFETY

NIGHTS OUT

One of the best parts of travelling is experiencing the nightlife and entertainment each city has to offer. However, amidst the fun and excitement, it's important to be aware of your surroundings and personal safety as well. Before you hit the road with us, be sure to familiarise yourself with the following safety information.

When you're on a night out, remember to avoid walking alone, particularly through deserted areas like beaches and back streets. Always stick together, take a registered taxi where possible, and keep a note of your accommodation details so you can find your way back to your fellow Topdeckers if you become separated. It's also a good idea to get your Topdeck trip mates' mobile numbers in case you need to get hold of them while out and about.

In some countries, alcoholic measures can be considerably larger than what you may be used to. Try to keep track of what you're drinking, and if you see one of your trip mates looking a little worse for wear, take them back to your accommodation. Never leave your drink unattended.

It's also important to be aware that what you might consider harmless flirting may be interpreted differently in some countries. Be yourself and have fun, but stay savvy – you don't want to find yourself in an uncomfortable situation.

RESPECTING FELLOW PASSENGERS

Here at Topdeck, we're all about inclusivity. We want to make sure that everyone has a great time on our trips, and that everyone feels like they're part of one happy Topdeck family.

What we're not about is excluding people or making them feel like they don't belong – that's just not what families do. That's why we always encourage Topdeckers to be kind and courteous to their fellow passengers. The golden rules? Always remember to respect each other's space, be mindful of causing excessive noise in shared accommodation and treat others how you'd wish to be treated yourself. Easy!

DRUG USE

Topdeck has a strict zero-tolerance drug policy. Passengers should not bring any illegal substances onto the Topdeck coach or into any of the accommodation we stay in on our trips. This includes marijuana, even if it is legal in some of the states your trip passes through. If you are found in possession of drugs, you will be removed from the trip. All instances of drug possession will be reported to Topdeck Head Office, who may consider alerting the relevant authorities.

REMEMBER – if you are found in possession of drugs, not only could you risk getting in trouble with the local police, but our Driver will also be held responsible if drugs are found on the Topdeck coach. Trust us, you wouldn't want that to happen to any of our Drivers – they're awesome.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Culture shock, homesickness, random periods of feeling down – these things happen and are totally normal. You can rest assured that if you're feeling low, your Topdeck crew will do their utmost to cheer you up again.

Measures you can take to look after your mental health and wellbeing while on the road with us are:

- + Call home. Sometimes it's nice to hear a familiar voice and have a good old-fashioned catch up with your loved ones
- + Eat well. Never underestimate the power of a good, wholesome meal. Nobody feels at their best when they're hungry!
- + Drink responsibly. Not only will you swerve the dreaded hangover, but by keeping an eye on what you drink, you could also avoid getting into any potentially uncomfortable situations
- + Talk to your Trip Leader. Don't forget, they're probably far from home, too – so they're sure to know of some tried-and-tested ways to beat the blues
- + Integrate with your fellow Topdeckers. This one is key! The more fun you're having on your trip, the less likely you are to feel homesick (trust us).

HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE TRAVELLER

Responsible travel isn't difficult to achieve. With a little conscious thought and preparation, you can have an awesome holiday AND have a positive impact on the places you visit. Sweet!

Here are five things you can do to ensure you're travelling responsibly:

- + Conserve water. You know the drill – reuse your hotel towels, take short showers and remember to turn off the tap when you're brushing your teeth
- + Reduce your waste. Ditch the plastic bag, refuse unnecessary packaging, dispose of your waste responsibly and recycle as much as possible
- + Go local. Hunt down locally owned and operated restaurants and bars, shop in local markets and book tours and activities run by local guides
- + Consider the wildlife. Avoid any attractions that involve closely engaging with wild animals
- + Respect local people and culture. Obeying local laws is a given – but also remember to dress and behave in a manner appropriate to the community. Be polite and keep an open mind!

OTHER INFORMATION

INSURANCE

Before your trip departs, it's compulsory for all passengers to take out comprehensive travel insurance covering cancellation, medical expenses (including repatriation), loss or damage to baggage and personal belongings, money and personal liability.

World Nomads provides comprehensive travel insurance for people from over 140 countries. For more information, visit www.topdeck.travel/travel-insurance.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Please make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after the last day of your trip. Some countries will refuse entry if you do not have at least six months validity remaining on your passport after your departure date. Depending on your nationality, you may require a visa to enter certain countries.

It is your responsibility to obtain visas prior to your trip departure. To determine which visas you'll need, you can consult either your own government's website or the government websites of the countries in which you will be travelling.

PLEASE NOTE: Some visas can take up to six weeks to acquire, so don't leave it until the last minute. Also, bear in mind that the validity of a visa often runs from its date of issue rather than the date of entry into the country. Please check with the appropriate embassy/embassies prior to departure, as requirements do change periodically.

WHAT TO BRING

Based on our experience, these items are key. Everyone's different though – so if you want to bring more or less, go for it (as long as you don't exceed your 20kg allowance, that is!)

Heading on our Namaste India trip? Your luggage is capped at 15kg, so maybe leave the hairdryer at home.

- + 1 pair of comfortable walking shoes
- + 1 pair of smart casual shoes
- + 1 pair of thongs/jandals/flip-flops
- + 2 pairs of jeans/trousers
- + 2 pairs of shorts/skirts
- + 4 shirts/T-shirts
- + 2 sweaters/jumpers
- + Smart casual evening wear
- + 1 rainproof jacket
- + 1 warm jacket
- + Underwear and socks
- + Swimwear
- + Towel
- + Toiletries
- + Hat and sunscreen
- + Basic medical kit (including plasters, aspirin etc)
- + Insect repellent
- + Conversion plug
- + Reusable water bottle
- + Snow gear



THAT'S IT!