

# EXPLORE!



## Toy Trains and Temples

5 days

India - Trip code TMIN8

## Tailormade Toy Trains and Temples

### Hill stations and holy temples

This five day itinerary is a great addition to any journey in India. Throw yourself into Indian life and take the narrow gauge train to the old hill station of Shimla, where Rudyard Kipling based his 'Plain tales from the Hills' novel. Roam through marbled courtyards in the grounds of the ornate Golden Temple in Amritsar, and embrace the noise and commotion at the closing of the border crossing to Pakistan.

### Enriching tailormade journeys - for you

This bespoke journey features some of our favourite spots in India. You can choose to take our destination experts' recommendations and travel just as you see the itinerary here, or contact us to add your own special touches. We're here to design your perfect holiday.

Call us on 01252 883 184.

## Trip highlights

### ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

#### Premium

Our premium accommodation is hand-picked and chosen for its character, location or local importance. These properties have excellent facilities and a higher level of comfort and service. They provide the perfect wind down after an active day.

### TRIP PACE:

#### Moderate

Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

# Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

## DAY 1 - Toy Train to Shimla

Depart Delhi for Kalka, where you'll transfer to a narrow gauge track and continue to Shimla on the remarkable 'Toy Train'. Climbing from the plains below, the train meanders for 93km, ascending over 1600m through an incredible 103 tunnels and passed some of the most scenic landscapes in the region.



**Accommodation: Clarkes Hotel** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Included Meals: None

## DAY 2 - Explore Shimla

The town of Shimla stretches out along a crescent shaped ridge, its alpine style houses shaded beneath dense evergreen forests. The old British hill station, with its colonial buildings and beautiful promenades is overlooked by the snow-capped Himalayas, making it one of the most scenic places to visit in North India. In the morning you will visit the imposing Viceregal Lodge, followed by the Command House, Gaiety Theatre, the Town Hall and Christ Church. The afternoon has been left free for you to explore at your leisure. We recommend a visit to the Mall or Lower Bazaar.



**Accommodation: Clarkes Hotel** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Included Meals: Breakfast

## DAY 3 - Journey to Amritsar

Today you have a full day journey to Amritsar, you'll change trains in Ambala. It is a long day of travelling but a scenic way to see the country.



**Accommodation: Ranjit Svaasa** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Included Meals: Breakfast

## DAY 4 - Golden Temple

Amritsar was founded in 1577 by the fourth Sikh Guru, Ram Das. Today you will visit The Golden Temple which was built in the heart of the city in 1589 and remains the holiest of all Sikh shrines, housing the Holy Book from which the granthis read from dawn until late evening. You will also visit Jallianwala Bagh, the emotional memorial site of the 1919 massacre of hundreds of unarmed demonstrators. Late afternoon you transfer to Wagah border to watch the closing of the border ceremony. The flamoyant Indian and Pakistani guards attract a large crowd and a brilliant atmosphere.



**Accommodation: Ranjit Svaasa** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Included Meals: Breakfast

## DAY 5 - Depart Amritsar

Unfortunately its time to depart Amritsar for the UK or your next destination.



Included Meals: Breakfast

## What's included?



**Included meals**

Breakfast: 4



**Transport**

Private car  
Train



**Trip staff**

Local guide  
Driver(s)



**Accommodation**

4 nights premium hotel

## Trip information

### Country information

### India Holidays & Tours

#### Climate

There is considerable variation between the different regions of India but, in general, the climate is tropical. Summer temperatures on the plains are very hot, but cooled by the South-West Monsoon, which lasts from June- September. During these months it can be very wet and therefore very humid. At altitude, temperatures can become quite cool at night even in the summer and may drop below freezing between December and February so warm clothing is necessary. In the winter, northern and mid India can be very cool, with cold evenings, so warm clothing, including plenty of layers, are essential. The south of India remains warm and sunny during the winter months.

#### Time difference to GMT

+5

**Plugs**

3 Pin Round

**Religion**

Catholicism, Hindu, Islam and Sikhism

**Language**

Hindi and English.

## Budgeting and packing

### Country Information

## India Holidays & Tours

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

**Lunch price**

£6

**Dinner price**

£8

**Beer price**

£1.4

**Water price**

£0.5

### Foreign Exchange

**Local currency**

Indian Rupee Recently new 500, 1000 and 2000 rupee notes have been brought in to circulation and as the old notes are no longer accepted there have been some cash flow issues. You don't need to worry about being given old notes as it's very easy to tell the difference, the new notes are pristine in comparison with most Indian money which is fairly tatty.

**Recommended Currency For Exchange**

GBP/US\$ are the best currency to change into local currency.

**Where To Exchange**

The Indian rupee is a restricted currency and it is best not to obtain in the UK as rates are very poor. You can either change money at the airport on arrival or in major towns during the tour. Your Tour Leader will advise you on the best places in each town. Both GBP and USD cash are easy to exchange at the airport and at hotels however you will be restricted to changing £60 cash at a time and it's not possible to change money at these locations using a credit or debit card.

**ATM Availability**

ATMs are available in most large cities in India but they are very limited elsewhere so please do not rely on this.

**Credit Card Acceptance**

Very rarely, only in the larger outlets.

**Travellers Cheques**

Opportunities to exchange are limited.

## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

## Essential information

### FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice click here.

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click here

#### Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

### Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

#### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

#### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer click here

### Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

### Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

#### Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

#### Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid

paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## **India Holidays & Tours**

### **Vaccinations**

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against Tetanus, Infectious Hepatitis, Typhoid and Polio. Please consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on Malaria, Dengue and Zika Virus. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider.

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