

Tour Name: Colonial India & Backwater

Tour Duration: 13 Nights/ 14 Days

Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/yhnwft27>

Tour Overview

Embark on the Colonial India & Backwater Tour, a journey that blends the spiritual essence of Varanasi, Kolkata, and Chennai with the colonial grandeur of Delhi and Mumbai. Begin in Delhi, where the Red Fort and Qutub Minar stand testament to the city's Mughal heritage. Experience the spiritual fervor of Varanasi, witnessing the Ganga Aarti and exploring ancient temples and bustling ghats. In Kolkata, delve into colonial history at Victoria Memorial and St. Paul's Cathedral, while Chennai offers a mix of ancient temples like Kapaleeshwarar and vibrant city life. Conclude in Mumbai, visiting iconic landmarks like the Gateway of India and Elephanta Caves, reflecting India's rich cultural tapestry and historical legacies.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Delhi

- Arrive in Delhi and transfer to your hotel. Relax and prepare for the exciting journey ahead.

Day 2: Delhi

- Have breakfast at the hotel. Begin your day with a visit to the Red Fort, a magnificent fort complex built in the 17th century.
- Explore Jama Masjid, one of the largest mosques in India, known for its stunning architecture.
- Wander through Chandni Chowk, a bustling market area offering a glimpse into Old Delhi's vibrant culture.
- Visit Raj Ghat, the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi, and pay homage to the Father of the Nation.
- Drive past India Gate, a war memorial, and the President's House, showcasing British colonial architecture.
- Visit Qutub Minar, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the tallest brick minaret in the world.

- Explore Humayun's Tomb, an exquisite Mughal mausoleum and a precursor to the Taj Mahal.
- Visit Lotus Temple, a Bahá'í House of Worship known for its distinctive lotus-shaped architecture.
- Explore Akshardham Temple, a sprawling spiritual and cultural campus featuring a stunning temple, gardens, and exhibitions.

Day 3: Delhi - Varanasi (flight)

- Have breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Varanasi.
- Arrive in Varanasi and transfer to your hotel. In the evening, witness the mesmerizing Ganga Aarti ceremony on the ghats of the Ganges River.

Day 4: Varanasi

- Have breakfast at the hotel. Take an early morning boat ride on the Ganges River to witness the spiritual rituals and ceremonies performed by devotees.
- Visit Kashi Vishwanath Temple, one of the most sacred Hindu temples dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- Explore the narrow lanes of the old city, filled with bustling bazaars and ancient temples.
- Visit Sarnath, where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon after attaining enlightenment. Explore the archaeological site and the museum, housing ancient Buddhist artifacts.
- Visit Bharat Mata Temple, dedicated to Mother India, featuring a large relief map of India carved in marble.
- Explore the Ramnagar Fort, an 18th-century fort and palace on the eastern bank of the Ganges.
- Visit Tulsi Manas Temple, a modern temple with walls adorned with verses from the Ramcharitmanas.
- Explore Banaras Hindu University (BHU), one of the largest residential universities in Asia.
- Return to Varanasi and explore the vibrant local markets. Experience the spiritual atmosphere and the unique culture of this ancient city.

Day 5: Varanasi - Kolkata (flight)

- Have breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Kolkata.

- Arrive in Kolkata and transfer to your hotel. In the evening, explore Park Street, a bustling area known for its vibrant nightlife and colonial-era architecture.

Day 6: Kolkata

- Have breakfast at the hotel. Visit Victoria Memorial, a grand marble building dedicated to Queen Victoria, showcasing a rich collection of artifacts and paintings.
- Explore St. Paul's Cathedral, an Anglican cathedral known for its Gothic architecture.
- Visit the Indian Museum, one of the oldest and largest museums in India, housing an extensive collection of artifacts.
- Visit Howrah Bridge, an iconic cantilever bridge over the Hooghly River. Explore the bustling flower market and enjoy the scenic views of the river.
- Visit Mother House, the headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity founded by Mother Teresa. Pay homage to her tomb and learn about her humanitarian work.
- Visit the Marble Palace, a stunning 19th-century mansion with a rich collection of sculptures, paintings, and antiques.
- Explore the Kalighat Temple, one of the oldest and most revered temples in Kolkata.
- Visit the Science City, an educational and entertainment complex featuring interactive exhibits, a space theater, and a maritime center.
- Explore the Birla Planetarium, one of the largest planetariums in Asia, offering astronomical shows and exhibits.

Day 7: Kolkata - Chennai (flight)

- Have breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Chennai.
- Arrive in Chennai and transfer to your hotel. Visit the Government Museum, showcasing an extensive collection of sculptures, paintings, and artifacts.
- Explore Fort St. George, the first English fortress in India, housing a museum and St. Mary's Church.
- Visit Kapaleeshwarar Temple, a stunning Dravidian-style temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- Visit the San Thome Basilica, built over the tomb of St. Thomas the Apostle.
- Explore the Arignar Anna Zoological Park, one of the largest zoos in India, home to a wide variety of animals.

- In the evening, take a leisurely walk along Marina Beach, one of the longest urban beaches in the world.

Day 8: Chennai - Pondicherry (235kms) - Enroute visit Kanchipuram

- Have breakfast at the hotel. Drive to Pondicherry, a charming coastal town with a unique blend of French and Indian culture.
- Enroute, visit Kanchipuram, known for its ancient temples and silk weaving. Explore the Kamakshi Amman Temple, dedicated to the goddess Kamakshi.
- Visit the Ekambareswarar Temple, one of the largest temples in Kanchipuram, dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- Arrive in Pondicherry and explore the French Quarter, with its colonial architecture and tree-lined streets.
- Visit the Aurobindo Ashram, a spiritual community dedicated to the teachings of Sri Aurobindo.

Day 9: Pondicherry - Chennai (160kms) - Enroute visit Mahabalipuram

- Have breakfast at the hotel. Visit Auroville, an experimental township dedicated to human unity, and explore the Matrimandir, a meditation center.
- Visit the Pondicherry Museum, showcasing a collection of artifacts from the French colonial period.
- Drive back to Chennai with an enroute visit to Mahabalipuram.
- Explore the Shore Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Five Rathas, a group of monolithic rock-cut temples.
- Visit the Arjuna's Penance, a massive rock carving depicting scenes from the Mahabharata.
- Arrive in Chennai and transfer to your hotel.

Day 10: Chennai - Cochin (flight)

- Have breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Cochin.
- Arrive in Cochin and transfer to your hotel. In the evening, enjoy a Kathakali dance performance, showcasing traditional Kerala dance and drama.

Day 11: Cochin - Alleppey (60kms)

- Have breakfast at the hotel. Visit the Chinese Fishing Nets, an iconic symbol of Cochin's maritime history.

- Explore St. Francis Church, the oldest European church in India. Visit the Jewish Synagogue and the nearby Jew Town, known for its antique shops.
- Visit the Mattancherry Palace, also known as the Dutch Palace, featuring beautiful murals and artifacts.
- Drive to Alleppey and board a traditional houseboat. Cruise through the serene backwaters, enjoying the picturesque landscapes and the tranquil ambiance.

Day 12: Alleppey - Cochin/Mumbai (flight)

- Have breakfast on the houseboat. Disembark and drive back to Cochin.
- Transfer to the airport for your flight to Mumbai. Arrive in Mumbai and transfer to your hotel.

Day 13: Mumbai

- Have breakfast at the hotel. Visit the Gateway of India, an iconic arch monument overlooking the Arabian Sea.
- Explore Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a stunning example of Victorian Gothic architecture.
- Visit the Prince of Wales Museum, showcasing a rich collection of art and artifacts.
- Drive past Marine Drive, a scenic promenade along the coast. Visit Mani Bhavan, the former residence of Mahatma Gandhi, now a museum dedicated to his life and work.
- Visit the Hanging Gardens, terraced gardens perched on Malabar Hill, offering panoramic views of the city.
- Explore the Elephanta Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, featuring rock-cut sculptures and temples dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Day 14: Mumbai - Departure

- Have breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.
- Depart from Mumbai with cherished memories of your Colonial Metro Cities with Spiritual City Varanasi & Alleppey Backwater Tour. Relive the highlights of your trip and look forward to your next adventure.

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Package Price (USD Per Person Sharing Double/Twin Room)**Valid for Travel: 01 October 2026 – 15 April 2027**

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	4,068	2,185	2,001	2,030	1,822	1,746	1,638	1,557
4★ Deluxe	4,950	2,629	2,444	2,474	2,266	2,190	2,082	2,001
5★ Luxury	6,496	3,756	3,251	3,281	3,073	2,997	2,889	2,808

Valid for Travel: 16 April 2027 to 15 September 2027

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	3,939	2,086	1,902	1,937	1,728	1,632	1,527	1,447
4★ Deluxe	4,433	2,360	2,176	2,211	2,002	1,906	1,800	1,721
5★ Luxury	5,938	3,467	2,962	2,997	2,788	2,692	2,586	2,507

Single Room Supplement

3★ Standard: USD 689 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 1,127 | 5★ Luxury: USD 1,867

Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)

3★ Standard: USD 61 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 142 | 5★ Luxury: USD 271

Price Includes:

- Assistance on arrival at airport.
- 13 Nights' accommodation in selected price category hotels.
- Daily breakfast at hotels.
- Private AC car/van for airport transfers, sightseeing, and excursions as per the program.
- English speaking tour guide on sightseeing days (local guide in each city), as per program.
- Monument entrances and activities charges mentioned in the itinerary.
- Bottled drinking water in car.
- Government taxes.

Price Does Not Include:

- Delhi - Varanasi - Kolkata - Chennai - Cochin - Mumbai flight fare approx INR 25,500 per person in economy class.
- Camera charges at monuments if any.
- Meals other than mentioned in the inclusions.
- Expenses of personal nature like liquor, laundry, tips, telephone, fax, internet etc.
- Gratuities and optional activities.
- Anything not mentioned in inclusions.

Hotels used or similar for 13 nights' accommodation

3 Star Hotels

- Delhi x 2 nights: Dee Marks Hotel & Resorts/ Emerald Hotel
- Varanasi x 2 nights: Meraden Grand/ Hotel Tridev
- Kolkata x 2 nights: Golden Tulip/ Polo Floatel
- Chennai x 2 nights: ZONE By the Park/ Raj Park
- Pondicherry x 1 night: Shenbaga Hotel/ Anandha Inn Convention Centre
- Cochin x 1 night: The Tower House/ The Killians
- Alleppey x 1 night: Deluxe Houseboat (AC During Night Only)
- Mumbai x 2 nights: Hotel Godwin, Colaba/ Hotel Suba Palace

4 Star Hotels

- Delhi x 2 nights: The Hans/ The Royal Plaza
- Varanasi x 2 nights: Rivatas by Ideal/ The Amayaa
- Kolkata x 2 nights: The Elgin Fairlawn/ ZONE By the Park
- Chennai x 2 nights: Accord Metropolitan/ The Park Chennai
- Pondicherry x 1 night: Le Pondy/ Accord Puducherry
- Cochin x 1 night: Casino Hotel/ Le Maritime
- Mumbai x 2 nights: Fariyas Hotel/ The Gordon House

5 Star Hotels

- Delhi x 2 nights: Le Meridien/ The Grand New Delhi
- Varanasi x 2 nights: Ramada JHV/ Radisson Hotel
- Kolkata x 2 nights: ITC Sonar, a Luxury Collection/ The Lalit Great Eastern
- Chennai x 2 nights: Radisson Blu Hotel GRT Chennai/ Hilton Chennai
- Pondicherry x 1 night: Palais De Mahe/ La Villa
- Cochin x 1 night: Kochi Marriott Hotel/ Xandari Harbour
- Alleppey x 1 night: Premium Houseboat (Full Time AC)
- Mumbai x 2 nights: Trident Hotel/ President, Mumbai - IHCL SeleQtions

Payment Policy:

- Deposit of 25% of the package cost at the time of booking.
- Deposit of 50% of the package cost, 30 days prior to arrival date
- Deposit of 100% of the package cost, 10 days prior to arrival date

Cancellation policy:

- Note: Written cancellation will be accepted on all working days, except Sundays. Any cancellation sent on Sundays will be considered on the next working day (Monday).
- X-mas and New Year Period (20 Dec to 05 Jan): The payment is non-refundable during this period.
- After Trip Commencement: If you cancel the trip after it has commenced, the refund will be limited to the amount we are able to recover from hoteliers/contractors. We are not responsible for refunds on unused hotel accommodations, chartered transportation, or missed meals.
- 61 days or more before the tour: No cancellation charges.
- Between 60 to 30 days before the tour: Cancellation charges equal to 20% of the full tour booking value.
- Between 30 to 15 days before the tour: Cancellation charges equal to 50% of the full tour booking value.

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- Within 5 days before the tour or no show: Cancellation charges equal to 90% of the full tour booking value.

Our Liabilities & Limitations:

- Price Changes: After the finalization of the tour/service cost, if there are any hikes in entrance fees, taxes, fuel costs, or guide charges by the Government of India, these will be charged as extra.
- Role as Agent: Agora Voyages acts only as an agent for hotels, airlines, transporters, railways, and contractors providing services. All receipts, contracts, and tickets issued by us are subject to terms and conditions of the service providers.
- Itinerary Changes: All itineraries are sample itineraries intended to provide a general idea. We reserve the right to change the schedule based on factors such as weather, road conditions, or the physical ability of participants to ensure safety, comfort, and well-being.
- Rate Modifications: Our rates are based on negotiated rates with hotels and airlines. If the rates are modified by these service providers, we reserve the right to adjust the quoted rates accordingly. Hotel bookings are based on usual check-in and check-out times, unless otherwise indicated.
- Liability Disclaimer: We are not responsible for delays, alterations, or expenses incurred due to natural hazards, flight cancellations, accidents, weather, sickness, political closures, or any unforeseen incidents.
- Damage, Loss, or Injury: We are not responsible for any loss, injury, or damage to persons, property, or otherwise, caused by acts of God, fire, accidents, machinery breakdowns, political disturbances, theft, epidemics, or other factors beyond our control.
- Insurance: We do not offer insurance for accidents, sickness, theft, or other unforeseen circumstances. We recommend travelers arrange for insurance in their home country. All personal property and baggage are at the client's risk at all times.
- Unforeseen Circumstances: We are not responsible for costs arising from landslides, roadblocks, bad weather, or similar unforeseen circumstances.

Tipping

- Tipping is not included in our price. It is optional but often expected in the travel industry. There is no limit on the amount you can tip, though the average guideline is around \$10-15 per day for guides, drivers, and other crew members.

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Trip Comments

- After your trip, we would love to hear your experience. Any photos, suggestions, or feedback will be greatly appreciated. While we strive to make every trip perfect, we acknowledge that there is always room for improvement. Your comments, whether positive or constructive, are invaluable to us.