



## Foothills of The Himalayas

Known as the “abode of the gods” the Himalayas encircle fascinating towns, many of which have evolved their own unique cultures and rituals amidst a variety of religions. The itinerary includes a visit to Dharamshala, home to the exiled Dalai Lama, and also takes in Shimla, which gained fame as the summer capital of the British in India.



### DAY 1 • DEPART FROM UK

Depart London on your overnight flight to Delhi.

### DAY 2 • ARRIVE DELHI

Arrive Delhi this morning. Upon arrival you will be met and taken to the Oberoi Maidens, where you will stay for 2 nights on a bed and breakfast basis. The afternoon is at leisure.

### DAY 3 • FULL DAY TOUR OF DELHI

Today you will do a full-day guided tour of Delhi. In the first half you will visit Old Delhi, visiting Jama Mosque and the Red Fort. You will also have a chance to enjoy a rickshaw ride in the by-lanes of the old city. In the afternoon you will be taken on a tour of New Delhi, visiting Qutab Minar, Humayun's Tomb and drive past the Government Buildings.

### DAY 4 • TO NALAGARH

This morning you will be driven to Nalagarh, where you will stay at Nalagarh Fort for 1 night on a bed and breakfast basis. The rest of the day will be at leisure.

### DAY 5 • TO PRAGPUR

After breakfast, you will be driven to Pragpur, a quaint little hill village, where you will stay at

the Judges Court for 2 nights on a bed and breakfast basis. Later in the afternoon you will explore the heritage village and its Village Crafts Museum and bazaar. Here the silversmiths will quickly modify trinkets to satisfy individual taste, village weavers will make shawls and blankets to order and tailors will make up dresses overnight.

### DAY 6 • PRAGPUR

In the morning take an early morning trip to the nearby national wetland. Later visit the small temple of Dada Siba to see the famous Kangra Paintings. On your way you may stop to visit water mills that grind corn into flour. In the afternoon you will be taken to walk by the River Beas which flows 6 KM away from your hotel.

### DAY 7 • KANGRA FORT • TO DHARAMSHALA

This morning you will be driven to Dharamshala, en route visiting the historic Kangra Fort. The earliest remains inside the Fort are the Jaina and Brahmanical temples which are dated to around the 19th century AD. You will stay at Chonor House for 2 nights on a bed and breakfast basis. The afternoon is at leisure to explore the little town by foot.

### DAY 8 • DHARAMSHALA • McLEODGANJ

Perched atop the idyllic Kangra valley, Dharamshala is a cool serene hill station. The valley and the surrounding hills are thickly wooded with oak and the snow line is perhaps easily accessible. Today a large number of Tibetans have made their temples, educational institutions, hospitals and art centres here. Upper Dharamshala or McLeodganj is the headquarters of His Holiness The Dalai Lama, who settled here following the Chinese invasion of Tibet in October 1959.

Explore the town of Dharamshala, and visit the Namgyal Monastery, known as Little Lhasa and a major attraction in McLeodganj. It contains large gilded bronzes of Buddha, Avalokitesvara and Padmasambhava. The central Tibetan Administration Offices are located here and you can also attend lectures and classes on Tibetan culture and Buddhism. There are a number of interesting walks; the shrine of Bhagasunath is a 2km stroll. The shrine is famous for its ancient temple and also has a spring that is considered sacred by the Hindus.

### DAY 9 • TO TARAGARH

In the morning you drive to Taragarh, one of the most scenic and unexplored areas of Himachal Pradesh. Located at a height of 1000 metres, Taragarh is at the foot of the Dauladhar Mountains with splendid views of surrounding snow-capped peaks. You will stay at Taragarh

Palace for 2 nights on a bed and breakfast basis. The rest of the day will be at leisure.

### DAY 10 • TARAGARH

Today you can spend the day at leisure or you may walk around the neighbouring tea gardens.

### DAY 11 • TO SHIMLA

This morning you will be driven to Shimla, once the summer capital of India during the British Raj. You will arrive in Shimla late in the afternoon, and stay at the Oberoi Cecil for 2 nights on a bed and breakfast basis.

### DAY 12 • SHIMLA

In the morning enjoy a tour of Shimla. In the afternoon take a short excursion to Chail.

### DAY 13 • TO DELHI

Morning is at your leisure. Later you will be driven to Kalka rail station in time to board your train to Delhi, arriving at Delhi late in the evening. You will be met on arrival and taken to the Park Plaza hotel, where you will stay for 1 night on a bed and breakfast basis.

### DAY 14 • DEPART TO UK

Transfer to airport for return flight to UK.

### DATES

This tour is run on an individual basis, and can start any day between 1st October and 30th June.

### COST

Please see our Price Guide at the front of the brochure.

### PRICE INCLUDES:

Accommodation and food as described; programme of events as described; all entry fees to monuments; rickshaw ride in Delhi; 1<sup>st</sup> class rail tickets; services of English speaking guide for sightseeing; air-conditioned car for sightseeing and transfers; portage at airports; all local taxes.

### PRICE EXCLUDES:

Flights; visas; camera fees; personal items such as drinks; laundry; phone calls; insurance; tips.

### DEPOSITS

A Standard Deposit is required for this tour as detailed in our Booking Conditions.

### OTHER INFORMATION

The flights listed in the itinerary are easily available from online agents. We will be happy to advise you about booking.

This tour can link with our other itineraries to create a bespoke itinerary for you.

It is possible to join the tour from any country of origin, so long as you arrive in Delhi during day two of the itinerary.