

Passage to India 7 Days

\$1,599.00

Delhi, Agra & Jaipur

From the sacred waters of the Ganges River to the dreamy façade of the majestic Taj Mahal at the break of dawn, the Indian sub-continent from its vast geographical terrain to its cultural diversity is extraordinary, and as captivating as it is inspiring.

India's cities teem with an incredible melting pot of cultures steeped in millennia of history and age-old traditions. This tour starts with a drive through Delhi to get a taste of the lifestyle, before heading to Agra to view the incomparable Taj Mahal. Then on to Rajasthan province's Jaipur city to explore the incredible architectural and astronomical achievements of past rulers of northern India. Head back to Delhi, taking in highlights such as the Bahai'i Lotus Temple, the Mahatma Gandhi museum, and Humayun's tomb – which inspired the Taj Mahal.

This tour can be combined with a seven day pre-tour extension to take in Sri Lanka, a two day extension to explore Ranthambore wildlife park, an additional four days to take in Kerala's beautiful backwaters, and/or an additional five days in Nepal before heading home.

Highlights

- Behold the dreamy façade of **Taj Mahal** upon the break of dawn
- See **Humayun's Tomb**, the inspiration for the Taj Mahal
- Ascend the beautiful **Amber Fort** overlooking Maota Lake
- Marvel at the ancient UNESCO World Heritage Site **Qutub Minar**
- Walk in the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi at **Gandhi Smriti**
- Visit the **Lotus Temple** and learn about the unique Baha'i faith

In stock

Category: India, Sri Lanka & Nepal Tags: India, Nepal, Sri Lanka

Departures

| 2017 | | | Package Price |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 05 Mar (SAF) | 25 Jun* (KER) | 15 Oct* (SAF) | From \$1,599 Land only from \$1,099 per person twin share — Single Supplement \$400 |
| 02 Apr** (SAF) | 23 Jul* (KER) | 29 Oct* (SAF) | |
| 30 Apr* (SAF) | 20 Aug* (KER) | 12 Nov (SAF) | |
| 28 May* (SAF) | 17 Sep** (KER) | | |
| 2018 | | | Package Price |
| 4 Mar (SAF) | 17 Jun (KER) | 16 Sep (KER) | From \$1,699 Land Only from \$1,199 per person twin share — Single Supplement \$400 |
| 11 Mar (SAF) | 24 Jun (KER) | 23 Sep** (KER) | |
| 18 Mar (SAF) | 1 Jul (KER) | 30 Sep** (KER) | |
| 8 Apr** (SAF) | 8 Jul** (KER) | 7 Oct** (SAF) | |
| 15 Apr** (SAF) | 15 Jul** (KER) | 14 Oct** (SAF) | |
| 22 Apr** (SAF) | 22 Jul** (KER) | 21 Oct (SAF) | |
| 29 Apr** (SAF) | 29 Jul (KER) | 28 Oct (SAF) | |
| 6 May (SAF) | 5 Aug (KER) | 4 Nov (SAF) | |
| 13 May (SAF) | 12 Aug (KER) | 11 Nov (SAF) | |
| 20 May (SAF) | 19 Aug (KER) | 18 Nov (SAF) | |
| 27 May (SAF) | 26 Aug (KER) | | |
| 3 Jun (KER) | 2 Sep (KER) | | |
| 10 Jun (KER) | 9 Sep (KER) | | |
| * Peak Season Surcharge: \$300 ** School Holiday Surcharge: \$500 (SAF) Ranthambore Wildlife Safari Extension available (KER) Kerala Backwaters Extension available | | | |

Package Inclusions:

- China Southern Airlines economy class international airfares, taxes and fuel surcharges departing Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane or Perth
- 5 nights hotel accommodation
- Transportation & transfers
- Daily breakfast
- Admissions to scenic attractions
- Local English-speaking tour guide(s)

Package Exclusions:

- Tipping prepaid in Australia: \$90
- India visa (mandatory)
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal expenditure and anything else not stated

Price Guide:

- **Interstate Surcharge:** Adelaide \$300
- **Early Arrival/Stay Behind Surcharge:** Delhi from \$250 (subject to availability and applicable fare difference)
- **Pre/Post-Tour Accommodation (incl. breakfast):** \$75/person/twin room, \$150/person/single room staying at Holiday Inn New Delhi Mayur Vihar Noida or similar (4 stars)

- **Airline Upgrade (economy class long haul int'l sectors):** Singapore Airlines from \$500
- **Business Class Upgrade (int'l long haul sectors):** China Southern Airlines from \$3500 or Singapore Airlines from \$5000 (subject to availability)
- **Triple Share:** On request basis only
- **Child price:** Same as adult

Notes: All prices are per person subject to availability plus applicable fare difference. Flights are not available until 1 month before departure and may involve up to 2 transits per leg. Singapore Airlines may not be available on all short haul flights. If unavailable, short haul flights may be with SilkAir, a subsidiary of Singapore Airlines.

All prices, itineraries, airlines, hotels and cruise ships are subject to availability and change without prior notice. Nexus Holidays reserves the right to provide substitutes of similar standard and adjust the itinerary as we see fit to ensure the smooth running of the tour. Itinerary and sites to be visited are subject to change due to local and seasonal conditions, minimum and maximum numbers, time and other unforeseen constraints beyond our control. Passengers must remain with the tour group at all times and must not deviate from the set itinerary. The total length of the tour in days includes time spent in flight and is subject to change depending on the flight schedule. Please refer to the day by day itinerary for the time spent on land. Please check all information before booking. By booking, you accept all **Booking Conditions**.

Hotel Accommodation

| | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Delhi | Crowne Plaza Gurgaon or similar | ★★★★★ local rating |
| Agra | Ramada Plaza or similar | ★★★★★ local rating |
| Jaipur | KK Royal Hotel or similar | ★★★★★ local rating |

Optional Pre-Tour Extension

Sri Lanka 7 Nights

Sri Lanka, like a small teardrop in the ocean, is where terraced Ceylon tea plantations are enveloped by misty highlands, herds of elephants criss-cross the lush wilderness, and balmy palm-fringed beaches are blessed by tranquil cerulean waters of the Indian Ocean.

Tour Highlights:

- Get up close and personal with elephants at **Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage**
- Observe Sri Lanka's vibrant wildlife on a safari at **Yala National Park**
- Climb the astonishing **Sigriya Rock Fortress** and see the remnants of an ancient city
- Discover Sri Lanka's most famous export at a **tea factory & plantation**
- Retreat to the timeless seaside harbour and town of **Galle**

| 2017 Departures | | | Package Price |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| 26 Feb | 18 Jun | 08 Oct | From \$1,499 per person twin share |
| 26 Mar | 16 Jul | 22 Oct | |
| 23 Apr | 13 Aug | 5 Nov | |
| 21 May | 10 Sep | | |
| 2018 Departures | | | Package Price |
| 25 Feb | 10 Jun | 9 Sep | |
| 4 Mar | 17 Jun | 16 Sep | |
| 11 Mar | 24 Jun | 23 Sep | |
| 18 Mar | 1 Jul | 30 Sep | |

| | | |
|--------|--------|--------|
| 8 Apr | 8 Jul | 7 Oct |
| 15 Apr | 15 Jul | 14 Oct |
| 22 Apr | 22 Jul | 21 Oct |
| 29 Apr | 29 Jul | 28 Oct |
| 6 May | 5 Aug | 4 Nov |
| 13 May | 12 Aug | 11 Nov |
| 20 May | 19 Aug | |
| 27 May | 26 Aug | |
| 3 Jun | 2 Sep | |

From **\$1,499**
per person twin share

Inclusions:

- Malaysia Airlines economy class international airfares, taxes and fuel surcharges departing Sydney or Melbourne
- Internal flight: Colombo > Delhi
- 7 nights hotel accommodation
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary
- Coach transportation & transfers
- Admissions including Yala National Park Jeep Ride
- Local English-speaking tour guide

Exclusions:

- Tipping prepaid in Australia: \$120
- ETA for Sri Lanka (mandatory)
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal expenditure and anything else not stated

Price Guide:

- Single supplement: \$500
- Interstate surcharge: Brisbane/Adelaide/Perth \$300 (flights may be via Sydney or Melbourne)
- Airline upgrade (economy class long haul int'l sectors): Singapore Airlines from \$400
- Child price: Same as adult

Accommodation:

| Area | Hotel | Local Rating |
|--------------|---|--------------|
| Colombo | Pegasus Reef Hotel or similar | ★★★★ |
| Dambulla | Habarana Village by Cinnamon or similar | ★★★★ |
| Kandy | Earl's Regent Hotel or similar | ★★★★ |
| Nuwara Eliya | Araliya Green Hills or similar | ★★★★ |
| Yala | Chandrika Hotel or similar | ★★★★ |
| Bentota | Centara Ceysands or similar | ★★★★ |

Optional Mid-Tour Extension

Ranthambore Wildlife Safari 2 Nights

Ranthambore National Park and Tiger Reserve is home to the largest population of the elusive and endangered Bengal tiger, as well as a host of exceptional species of flora and fauna. This was once the preferred hunting grounds of the royal Maharajas of bygone days, but is now an attraction for many nature, wildlife, and photography enthusiasts.

| Package Price | Single Supplement |
|--|-------------------|
| From \$899 per person twin share | \$250 |

Inclusions:

- Entrance fee to Ranthambore National Park
- Transportation by Jeep
- 2 nights hotel accommodation
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary

Exclusions:

- Tipping prepaid in Australia: \$45
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal expenditure and anything else not stated

Accommodation:

| Area | Hotel | Local Rating |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Ranthambore | Ranthambore Regency or similar | ★★★★ |

Notes:

- This extension cannot be combined with *Nepal 5 Nights* Post-Tour Extension

Optional Mid-Tour Extension

Kerala Backwaters 4 Nights

Kochi is home to the famed backwaters of Kerala, aptly nicknamed 'the Venice of South Asia', due to its labyrinth of meandering streams, lakes, rivers, and lagoons. Here, an interesting mix of Portuguese, Dutch and English influences is manifest in Jewish synagogues, historical churches and buildings, as well as giant fishing nets said to originate from China.

| Package Price | Single Supplement |
|--|-------------------|
| From \$999 per person twin share | \$400 |

Tour Highlights:

- Float down the serene **backwaters of Kerala** in a houseboat
- Watch the intriguing **Kathakali cultural dance performance** unique to South India
- Marvel at the majestic **Chinese fishing nets**
- Indulge in a complete and rejuvenating **Ayurveda experience**

Inclusions:

- Domestic internal flight(s): Jaipur > Kochi (via Mumbai)
- 4 nights hotel accommodation
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary
- Transportation & transfers
- Site entry fees
- Local English-speaking tour guide

Exclusions:

- Tipping prepaid in Australia: \$125

- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal expenditure and anything else not stated

Accommodation:

| Area | Hotel | Local Rating |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Kochi | Crowne Plaza Kochi or similar | ★★★★★ |
| Alleppey | Cosy Houseboat or similar | ★★★★ |
| Changanssery | Contour Backwater Resorts or similar | ★★★★ |

Notes:

- This extension cannot be combined with *Nepal 5 Nights* Post-Tour Extension
- There will be a slight deviation from the Delhi sightseeing portion of the *Passage to India 7 Days* tour itinerary for all travellers taking up the *Kerala Backwaters 4 Night* extension. Lotus Palace, Gandhi Smriti and Humayun's Tomb which are normally offered as part of the *Passage to India 7 Days* tour package will be replaced with a visit to India Gate, a drive by Parliament House and the President's House, capped off with a special farewell dinner.

Optional Post-Tour Extension

Nepal 5 Nights

Landlocked by China in the north and India in the east, south and west, Nepal's façade is dramatically given away by the magnificent mountain range of the Himalayas, with the jagged snow-capped summit of Mount Everest soaring skywards into the heavens above. Down below, cities are like painted canvasses of labyrinthine streets, flecked with a stunning array of medieval-style pagodas, stupas and Tibetan Buddhist monasteries.

| Package Price | Single Supplement |
|--|-------------------|
| From \$999 per person twin share | \$400 |

Tour Highlights:

- Gaze up at the Himalayan mountain range, with stunning views of Mt. Everest
- Marvel at **Boudhanath Stupa** adorned with colourful prayer flags
- Stop by a **Tibetan refugee camp** and observe the life of Tibetans in exile
- Retreat to the beautiful **Phewa Lake** in the lakeside city of Pokhara

Inclusions:

- Flights (Delhi > Kathmandu > Australia)
- 5 nights hotel accommodation
- Meals as indicated
- Transportation & transfers
- Admissions to scenic attractions
- Local English-speaking tour guide

Exclusions:

- Tipping prepaid in Australia: \$90
- Nepal visa (mandatory)
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal expenditure and anything else not stated

Price Guide:

- Stay behind surcharge: From \$250
- Child price: Same as adult
- Triple share: Not available

Accommodation:

| Area | Hotel | Local Rating |
|-----------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Kathmandu | Royal Singi or similar | ★★★★ |
| Nargarkot | Country Villa or similar | ★★★★ |
| Pokhara | Da Yatra Courtyard or similar | ★★★★ |

Day 1: Australia ✈ Delhi

Namaste! Welcome to Delhi. You will be met at the airport by a tour representative and transferred to your hotel.

Please note: Depending on the city of departure chosen, some flights may depart the night before on Day 0. Flights to Delhi will be via connecting cities and may involve more than one transit.

Day 2: Delhi 🚗 Agra (B)

Begin your journey with a drive through the bustling streets and winding alleyways of Delhi to see the ancient **Qutub Minar**. This complex is a fine example of Indo-Islamic architecture, with its alternating angular and circular flutings and verses from the Quran inscribed on the sandstone exterior. Leave Delhi and journey on to the historic city of Agra in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Explore **Agra Fort**, a massive red sandstone building built on the banks of Yamuna River in 1565. The fort served as a military base and royal residence during the great Mughal reign over India.

Day 3: Agra 🚗 Jaipur (B)

Rise early this morning to catch the breathtaking **Taj Mahal**, graced by the light of the morning sun. Considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World and the quintessential monument of India, this exquisite white-marble and inlaid semi-precious stone mausoleum complex was commissioned by the Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan, as a memorial to his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Leave Agra and cross over to the colourful state of Rajasthan, to the mesmerising pink city of Jaipur, where many of the buildings here are flushed with a vibrant pink hue. Stop by **Hawa Mahal** ('Palace of Winds'), an enchanting five-storey pink sandstone palace built in the 18th century by the king of Jaipur, Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh. The purpose of this building's ingenious design was to enable the ladies of the royal palace to observe city life from the palace windows.

Day 4: Jaipur (B)

Ascend to the **Amber Fort** this morning by jeep. This massive fort sits on a hill overlooking beautiful Maota Lake. Although the fort is in ruins, the royal palaces, gardens and temples housed inside still retain much of their grandeur. Later, visit the **City Palace**, a stunning palace complex divided into a series of regal courtyards, gardens and buildings. Afterwards, head to the fascinating **Jantar Mantar Observatory** built by Maharaja Jai Singh in early 18th century and behold an impressive collection of enormous astronomical instruments that were once used to measure time, chart constellations, and observe the planets and stars.

Day 5: Jaipur 🚗 Delhi (B)

Return to Delhi this morning. On arrival, visit the **Lotus Temple**, a Bahai House of Worship, which welcomes visitors of all faiths. This astonishing modern architectural wonder features 27 white-marble petals styled in the shape of a lotus. Afterwards, enjoy a special visit to **Gandhi Smriti**, a museum and memorial dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, who was assassinated on 30 January 1948. Walk in the footsteps of Gandhi and discover the life and death of one of the most influential figures in Indian history, and how his spirituality and political beliefs have gone on to inspire people around the world today. The final stop will be at **Humayun's Tomb**, one of the earliest Mughal monuments to date. Its design was heavily influenced by Persian architecture and served as an inspiration for the iconic Taj Mahal.

Day 6: Delhi ✈ Australia (B)

Transfer to the airport today for your journey home or continue on to your next destination.

Day 7: Australia

Arrive home today.

Optional Pre-Tour Extension

Sri Lanka 7 Nights

Sri Lanka, like a small teardrop in the ocean, is where terraced Ceylon tea plantations are enveloped by misty highlands, herds of elephants criss-cross the lush wilderness, and balmy palm-fringed beaches are blessed by tranquil cerulean waters of the Indian Ocean.

Highlights:

- Get up close and personal with elephants at **Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage**
- Observe Sri Lanka's vibrant wildlife on a safari at **Yala National Park**
- Climb the astonishing **Sigiriya Rock Fortress** and see the remnants of an ancient city
- Discover Sri Lanka's most famous export at a **tea factory & plantation**
- Retreat to the timeless seaside harbour and town of **Galle**

Day 1: Australia ✈ Colombo

Welcome to Sri Lanka. Your journey begins in Colombo where you will be met by a tour representative and transferred to the hotel.

Please note: Depending on the city of departure chosen, some flights may depart the night before on Day 0. Flights to Colombo will be via connecting cities and may involve more than one transit.

Day 2: Colombo 🚌 Pinnewala 🚌 Dambulla (B, D)

Leave for Pinnewala this morning and visit **Pinnewala Elephant Orphanage**. The orphanage was established in 1975 to house abandoned and wounded elephants. Today, the number of elephants in the orphanage has increased to more than 40, including baby elephants brought in from various parts of the country and those born as a result of the captive breeding program. Drive onwards to the UNESCO World Heritage **Dambulla Cave Temple**, which was once the spiritual heart of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. This massive complex houses five sacred cave temples decorated with intricate Buddhist murals and hundreds of statues of great historical and cultural significance.

Day 3: Sigiriya 🚌 Matale 🚌 Kandy (B, D)

Journey on to the ancient city of Sigiriya this morning and climb **Sigiriya Rock Fortress** (also known as Lion's Rock) passing by a sheltered gallery of elaborate painted frescoes and as a pair of massive carved stone lion's paws. En route to Kandy, spend time in a **spice garden** in Matale and discover the variety of plants being cultivated, from cinnamon, cardamom and nutmeg, to pepper vines. Drive to Kandy and visit **The Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic**, which is said to house the remains of the Buddha's tooth. Enjoy a lively cultural dance performance tonight.

Day 4: Kandy 🚌 Nuwara Eliya (B, D)

Spend some time at the **Royal Botanical Gardens** in Peradeniya this morning, the largest botanical wonderland of Sri Lanka. The lush botanic garden houses tropical vegetation from climbing and flowering plants unique to a giant Javan fig tree. Proceed to **Nuwara Eliya** ('City of Light') and visit a tea Factory & plantation en route. The tea here is well-known for its distinct flavour and aroma. Nuwara Eliya is known as the 'Little England of Sri Lanka', as it was established by the British in 19th century. This charming city is set against a backdrop of misty mountains and valleys,

cascading waterfalls and acres of fragrant tea plantation.

Day 5: Nuwara Eliya 🚌 Ella 🚌 Yala (B, D)

Today's highlight is an afternoon safari at **Yala National Park**, travelling by Jeep. Yala National Park was established in 1938, originally as a sportsman's shooting reserve, and is home to the world's largest population of leopards. Get up close to elephants, wild boars, buffaloes, crocodiles, peacocks, jackals, sloth bears and more. You may also spot many colourful resident and migratory birds that nest in and transit through the park.

Day 6: Yala 🚌 Ella 🚌 Bentota (B, D)

Bid farewell to the wilderness this morning and retreat to the timeless seaside town and harbour of Galle. On arrival, explore **Galle Dutch Fort**, which was once the port of call for ships that sailed in from Europe. Leave Galle this afternoon for Bentota, a quiet and soothing coastal town bordered by sun-baked sandy beaches and beautiful coconut palm trees affording dreamy views of the Indian Ocean.

Day 7: Bentota (B, D)

Enjoy the day at your own leisure. You may choose to participate in some water sports, wildlife watching, or sample some mouth-watering local cuisine (at your own expense) – the perfect way to end your journey in Sri Lanka.

Day 8: Bentota 🚌 Colombo ✈️ Delhi (B)

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight to your next destination.

Optional Mid-Tour Extension

Ranthambore Wildlife Safari 2 Nights

Ranthambore National Park and Tiger Reserve is home to the largest population of the elusive and endangered Bengal tiger, as well as a host of exceptional species of flora and fauna. This was once the preferred hunting grounds of the royal Maharajas of bygone days, but is now an attraction for many nature, wildlife, and photography enthusiasts.

Day 5: Jaipur 🚌 Ranthambore National Park (B)

Leave Jaipur this morning and travel onwards to **Ranthambore National Park and Tiger Reserve**. Other than wildlife, the park contains abandoned fortresses, thick forested regions and three picturesque lakes: Padam Talao, Rajbagh Talao and Malik Talao. Overnight at Ranthambore to allow ample time for your morning and afternoon game drives tomorrow.

Day 6: Ranthambore National Park (B)

Rise early for a morning game drive. Observe wildlife such as macaque monkeys atop tree branches and herds of spotted deer grazing in the grassy plains. If you are lucky, you may be able to sight the elusive royal Bengal tiger. There will be free time at leisure before you embark on another exhilarating game drive before dusk to increase your chances of spotting wildlife.

Day 7: Ranthambore National Park 🚌 Delhi (B)

Bid farewell to the wilderness and return to Delhi. On arrival, visit the **Lotus Temple**, a Baha'i House of Worship, which welcomes visitors of all faiths. This astonishing modern architectural wonder features 27 white-marble petals styled in the shape of a lotus. Thereafter will be a special visit to **Gandhi Smriti**, a museum and memorial dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, who was assassinated on 30 January 1948. Walk in the footsteps of Gandhi and discover the life and death of one of the most influential figures Indian history, and how his spirituality and political belief went on to inspire people around the world today. The final stop will be at **Humayun's Tomb**, one of the earliest Mughal monuments. Its design was heavily influenced by Persian architecture and served as an inspiration for the iconic Taj Mahal.

Day 8: Delhi ✈️ Australia (B)

Transfer to the airport today for your journey home via connecting cities.

Day 9: Australia

Arrive home today.

Optional Mid-Tour Extension

Kerala Backwaters 4 Nights

Kochi is home to the famed backwaters of Kerala, aptly nicknamed as the Venice of South Asia due to its labyrinth of meandering water streams, lakes, rivers and lagoons. Here, the interesting mix of Portuguese, Dutch and English influences lends itself to Jewish synagogues, historical churches and buildings as well as giant fishing nets from China.

Tour Highlights:

- Float down the serene **backwaters of Kerala** in a houseboat
- Watch a special traditional folk dance performance – **Kathakali**
- Marvel at the majestic **Chinese Fishing Nets**
- Indulge in a complete and rejuvenating **Ayurveda experience**

Day 5: Jaipur ✈️ Kochi (via Mumbai) (B)

Transfer to the airport this morning after breakfast. Board your flight to Kochi via Mumbai. You will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel to rest.

Enjoy the sunset by the seashore and see the extravagant **Chinese Fishing Nets**. These giant nets are one of a kind and it has been said it was brought to India from the traders of the court of Kublai Khan in AD 1400 China. Behold a special Kathakali performance this evening. **Kathakali** is a traditional folk dance specific to the Kerala region and features actor-dancers dressed up in extravagant colourful make-up, costumes, face masks and vivid face painting.

Day 6: Kochi (B)

Rise early for your chance to relax at the spa (at your own expense) before the city sightseeing commences today. Kochi is a major port city on the south-west coast of India with a touch of Portuguese, Dutch and English influence. Visit the **Jewish Synagogue** this afternoon, a synagogue adorned with several objects of antiquity, such as elaborate Belgian glass chandeliers, giant scrolls from the Old Testament and hundreds of Chinese 18th century hand-painted porcelain tiles. Stop by **St. Francis Church**, well-known for its magnificent architecture and its Portuguese influence dating back to the 15th century. Later, see the **Dutch Palace** (or otherwise, known as Mattancherry Palace) and

museum where large elaborate art murals depicting scenes from Great Indian Epics and an impressive collection of royal items formerly owned and worn by the royal family are on display.

Day 7: Kochi 🚗 Alleppey 🚗 Changanssery (B, L)

Head to Alleppey after breakfast. On arrival, alight for a **relaxing day cruise** through the serene backwaters of Kerala in a houseboat. Observe the charming village life along the banks as you cruise along in style. Enjoy a special lunch on-board and soak in the warm sunset glow before journeying back to Changanssery for a complete and rejuvenating **ayurvedic experience**. Ayurveda is the science of life and longevity involving the harmony of mind, body and soul.

Day 8: Changanssery (B)

Indulge in a full day experience of Kerala Ayurveda treatments after a thorough check of individual body requirements.

Day 9: Changanssery 🚗 Kochi ✈️ Delhi ✈️ Australia (B, D)

Early breakfast before you check out of the hotel. Return to Kochi this morning for your flight to Delhi. On arrival, free time for some last minute shopping before you visit **India Gate** passing by the **Parliament House** as well as the **President's House**. Enjoy a special farewell dinner before you will be transferred to the airport for your journey home via connecting cities.

Note: There will be a slight deviation from the Delhi sightseeing portion of the Passage to India tour itinerary for all travellers taking up the Kerala extension. Lotus Palace, Gandhi Smriti and Humayun's Tomb which are normally offered as part of the Passage to India tour package will be replaced with a visit to India Gate, a drive by the Parliament House and the President's House capped off with a special farewell dinner.

Day 10: Australia

Arrive home today.

Optional Post-Tour Extension

Nepal 5 Nights

Landlocked by China in the north and India in the east, south and west, Nepal's façade is dramatically given away by the magnificent mountain ranges of the Himalayas with the jagged snow-capped summits of Mount Everest soaring skywards into the heavens above. Down below, cities appear as painted canvasses of labyrinthine streets flecked with a stunning array of medieval-style pagodas, stupas, and Tibetan Buddhist monasteries.

Tour Highlights:

- Gaze up at the Himalaya mountain ranges with stunning views of Mt Everest
- Marvel at **Boudhanath Stupa** adorned with colourful prayer flags
- Stop by a **Tibetan refugee camp** and observe the life of Tibetans in exile
- Retreat to the beautiful Phewa Lake in the lakeside city of **Pokhara**

Day 1: Delhi ✈️ Kathmandu (B)

Transfer to the airport this morning after breakfast. Board your flight to Kathmandu. You will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel to rest.

Day 2: Kathmandu 🚗 Nagarkot (B, D)

Begin your journey with an introductory tour of Kathmandu City. Visit **Durbar Square**, an intricate network of palaces, courtyards and temples. This was once the seat of the ancient Malla kings of Kathmandu. Head to **Swayambhunath Stupa**, which is perhaps Nepal's most iconic temple complex. Afterwards, continue on to the colourful **Boudhanath Stupa**. This is the largest and most popular Buddhist complex in Nepal, drawing in many Buddhist pilgrims from around the world. A pair of giant painted eyes at the top of the temple, recalling those of the Buddha, keep a watchful gaze over the surrounding town. Proceed to Nagarkot and step back in time in **Bhaktapur City**, a living museum of remarkable medieval pagodas carved with elaborate Buddhist and Hindu symbols, and cobblestone streets and alleys peppered with redbrick homes.

Notes: Some major and significant historical sites in Kathmandu were extensively damaged by the earthquake in 2015 and are currently being restored.

Day 3: Nagarkot 🚗 Pokhara (B, D)

Rise early today for your chance to observe one of the best sunrise views of the Himalayas. Enjoy a picturesque drive to Pokhara with breathtaking views of the snow-capped Himalayan mountain range from afar. Pokhara is an idyllic lakeside city and the gateway to the Annapurna Circuit – one of the most popular trekking circuits, with excellent vantage points of the mighty Mount Everest. At the borders of Pokhara is **Phewa Lake** where it is possible to see Macchapuchhre and Annapurna mountain ranges reflected on the surface of the crystal clear water.

Day 4: Pokhara (B, D)

Visit Sarangkot this morning, from where you can see Annapurna and the peaks of Dhaulagiri (8167m) in the west, to Maccapuchhare (6997m), and the rounded peak of Annapurna II (7937m) in the east. Thereafter, visit a **Tibetan refugee camp**. Many Tibetan refugees fled to this city in the 1960s after the Chinese invasion of Tibet, and now live here in exile. Most are self-sufficient, earning their living selling souvenirs around the lakeside or producing and trading woollen carpets and other handicraft items. Travel onwards to **Gupteshwor Mahadev Cave**, a cave dedicated to Lord Shiva, one of the many Hindu gods.

Day 5: Pokhara 🚗 Kathmandu (B, D)

Return to Kathmandu. From there, make a stop at **Thamel**, a shopping mecca in Nepal. Meander through shops for souvenirs such as handicrafts, jewellery, or clothing, or relax and unwind at a local café. You will dine on authentic Nepalese cuisine this evening, followed by a dance performance.

Day 6: Kathmandu ✈ Australia (B)

Transfer to the airport for your journey home via connecting cities.

Day 7: Australia

Arrive home today.