Please refer to our other brochures for more exciting destinations.
Travel made beautiful!

Welcome to our world and please feel free to completely indulge yourself whilst meandering through our exclusive portfolio of some of the world’s premier resorts. Whether you prefer to relax on a beach of powdery white sand, marvel at historic sights, immerse yourself in local culture or perhaps even tiger trek in a National Park, at If Only... we have the knowledge and expertise to offer each of these experiences, and many more besides.

Yes, I could use this opportunity to wax lyrical about the strengths of If Only.... For example, I could tell you:

...... that our levels of product knowledge are virtually unparalleled

...... that the service we provide is the envy of many of our competitors

...... that we have been the recipient of countless industry awards

...... that our fabulous team are always eager to ‘go the extra mile’

...... that we provide a very personalised and bespoke service.

And a massive ‘yes’ to all of the above!

Then again, perhaps it is all too easy for companies to make such claims. But ask yourself why your travel agency has chosen to pass you our brochure. I would suggest that the answer is very simple - they wish to ensure that you are placed in the very safest pair of hands.

It would probably be apt if I were to conclude by sharing our mission statement with you:

'We exist to provide personalised luxury holidays to some of the world’s most beautiful destinations and to ensure that we are the natural port of call for those seeking the ultimate bespoke travel experience. We are passionate about travel. Our mission is to do it better than anyone else.'

Why compromise when ‘travel made beautiful’ awaits you at If Only... ?

Brendan

Brendan Maguire, Founder and Chairman
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Denotes Arabian destinations featured in our Arabia and Indian Ocean brochure

Denotes Indian Ocean destinations featured in our Arabia and Indian Ocean brochure

Denotes destinations featured in our Asia brochure

Denotes destinations featured in our Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands brochure
Asia
About us...

General
We are delighted to be able to showcase our stunning selection of hand-picked hotels and resorts in Asia. Sit back, relax and luxuriate over some of the world’s finest and most exclusive hideaways, each and every one having been personally visited and inspected on behalf of If Only… Each member of our reservations team is a destination expert, is well-travelled and will personally deal with your holiday requirements with passion, enthusiasm, professionalism and a friendly manner that is virtually unparalleled.

Awards
In recent years the quality of our service has been recognised by our partners in the industry, having been the recipient of a number of ‘Best Tour Operator’ awards. Most significantly within the last year we have won ‘Tour Operator Of The Year’ and ‘Luxury Tour Operator Of The Year’ at the TTG national awards. Furthermore, it has been particularly gratifying to have also been consistently recognised outwith our own industry.

Peace of Mind
You are in safe hands with If Only… In addition to our wealth of experience, you may rest assured that your holiday is financially protected as we hold all requisite licences. Please refer to the booking conditions on the inside back cover of this brochure for further information.

Flights
We generally only use scheduled airlines, in keeping with the quality of our overall product. For more detailed information on all our airline partners, please refer to Our Airline Partners pages at the back of the brochure. We are also able to offer competitively priced domestic connecting flights from regional airports. Please ask one of our reservation team for further information. Why not travel in style and upgrade your flights to the more luxurious first and business class cabins? This will also enable you to relax in the airport lounge and enjoy complimentary drinks and snacks prior to your flight. These upgrades are sometimes available on a one-way basis and are probably more reasonably priced than you imagine - an ideal way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary, honeymoon or to simply indulge yourself.

Transfers
Where transfers are by land, generally speaking If Only… provide private car transfers. Where appropriate we also offer a ‘meet and greet’ service, as well as helicopter and limousine transfers in some of our destinations.

Price Panels
It is not our policy to provide detailed price panels on each page. There are two reasons for this. Firstly all of our holidays are tailor-made, specifically for you. Secondly, we very often obtain special hotel rates and airfares after the brochure has gone to print and we prefer to pass these on to you. As a very general guideline, in each destination we tend to feature the hotels in value order, commencing with the least expensive. This however is not an absolute guide, given that there might be variations in the board basis offered by the hotels. Our hotel classifications (referred to below) will also provide you with a useful guide.

Hotel Classification
We have chosen to include star ratings for each property. We have been obliged to use the hotel’s own rating if an official rating is not available. It is very important to note that this is not an exact science and standards can vary quite dramatically from one country to another. However, we do hope that it will provide you with a useful indicator.

What’s New…?
After having successfully operated in Arabia, the Indian Ocean and Asia for a number of years, in September 2017, in response to client demand, we were delighted to launch an Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands brochure, which has proven very popular. Our Product Department has been hard at work sourcing the very best resorts in each destination, encompassing top end luxury 5* deluxe resorts, stunning 4 star offerings accompanied by the occasional 3 star superior gem. As always, the accent is on offering great locations, superb accommodation, attentive service and fantastic value for money.

From an operational point of view we have expanded our reservations, product and aftersales departments, ensuring that clients benefit from the very best advice and experience both pre and post booking. In addition, we have recently invested in a new back and front end computer system enabling us to tailor-make holidays more quickly and accurately and with the most competitive pricing. It also allows us to provide more detailed and professional travel documentation.

But there is more exciting news! Within the next few months we will be releasing our very first USA brochure. Throughout 2018 and beyond, this will then be followed by brochures featuring the Caribbean, South Africa and South America – in fact the world is our oyster! As in the past, we will have dedicated reservation teams for each destination, each member having a thorough knowledge of their area of expertise. They will be ready and waiting to respond to any of your queries in a friendly, courteous and very professional manner. We look forward to hearing from you.
Fly Emirates

Emirates is one of the fastest growing airlines in the world and since its inception in 1985, has won over 500 international awards for excellence. Emirates offer unrivalled levels of service, state-of-the-art facilities and convenient scheduling to guarantee your comfort, whether you are travelling on business or for pleasure.

Network

From the UK, Emirates currently offers a choice of 17 direct flights a day to Dubai and beyond from 6 UK airports, ensuring unbeatable flexibility and convenience.

Fly from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle and Glasgow to Dubai and onward to over 150 worldwide destinations across the Middle East, Africa, Indian subcontinent, Far East, Australia and New Zealand.

Inflight entertainment

Emirates offer personal seat back screens and up to 2,500 channels of award-winning entertainment with connection to phone, SMS and email from every seat - plus Wi-Fi onboard the Emirates A380 and selected Boeing 777’s.

Twin centre holiday

For those travellers wishing to have two holiday experiences in one, the twin centre concept is ideal. Why not take advantage of the extensive Emirates worldwide network and combine a stay in Dubai with destinations such as Mauritius, Seychelles, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, India, Indonesia Australia and New Zealand.

Travel in style with Emirates

The luxury of travelling in First Class and Business Class with Emirates begins as soon as you leave home with a complimentary Chauffeur-drive Service.

Once onboard you will enjoy multi course gourmet dining and award-winning inflight entertainment whilst relaxing in spacious and comfortable seats that convert into flat-beds at the touch of a button to ensure that you arrive at your destination rested and refreshed.

First Class and Business Class passengers can also take advantage of exclusive Emirates Lounges, dedicated check-in and baggage handling, a generous 40kg baggage allowance in Business Class and 50kgs in First Class.

Economy Class

Emirates Economy Class offers the highest level of service from the multilingual cabin crew. You are invited to relax in comfortable, spacious seats and enjoy up to 2,500 channels of award-winning entertainment on ‘ice’. Inflight cuisine offers outstanding choice and quality with gourmet menus and an excellent complimentary selection of wines and other beverages.

The Emirates A380

The Emirates A380 promises customers in all classes a whole new travel experience.

First Class and Business Class passengers are able to enjoy drinks and canapés in the Onboard Lounge.

In First Class, each luxurious Private Suite has a built-in, adjustable massage system and for your comfort, your seat converts to a fully flat bed with mattress. The aircraft boasts two First Class Shower Spas which include heated flooring, leather seating and shower kits.

Passengers travelling in Business Class will benefit from comfortable flat-bed seats, personal storage as well as in-seat power supply for laptops, dual port USB, a 23” Digital widescreen TV and a personal mini-bar.

Passengers in Economy Class benefit from adjustable headrests, more space and a sliding base allowing deeper seat recline.
Our Other Destinations

In tandem with this Asia offering, If Only… has also produced two stunning sister brochures exclusively dedicated to Arabia & The Indian Ocean and Australia, New Zealand and The Pacific Islands.

The portfolio includes a host of mouth-watering hotels and resorts, all very carefully chosen with our discerning clientele in mind. Dubai has something to offer everyone. Having fantastic shopping, amazing beaches, a multitude of activities and attractions as well as stunning desert escapes, it really is a must-visit destination. Other Arabian delights featured in our portfolio include cultural Oman and the ever-developing capital of the UAE, Abu Dhabi.

If you prefer seascapes to cityscapes, then the Indian Ocean awaits you. Mauritius offers renowned service levels, fantastic beaches and a welcoming tropical climate. The seclusion, powdery white sands and sparkling aquamarine ocean of the Maldives islands is difficult to resist, while the spectacularly scenic Seychelles offer the perfect island hopping experience. By way of contrast is cultural Sri Lanka, with diverse landscapes ranging from cascading paddy fields to towns rich with heritage. And it also has its fair share of stunning beaches. Alternatively, one can combine Arabia with the Indian Ocean, an extremely popular twin centre experience.

Our Australia, New Zealand & The Pacific Islands brochure features a wide range of accommodation and touring options for everyone from the first time visitor to those who have travelled to the area regularly. There are city hotels, remote luxury lodges and private island retreats. Enjoy taking in the ‘must see’ highlights or getting off the beaten track in this diverse region. There are campervan itinerary suggestions, heli-hiking options, fascinating rail journeys and cruises around some stunning lagoons.

Additionally, If Only… will be launching a USA brochure in late 2017. Be inspired by the vibrant cities, the fabulous beach resorts, the diverse culture, the towering mountains, the legendary cuisine, not to mention the children’s playground of Florida and the adult’s playground of Las Vegas!

Be inspired by these intoxicating, diverse continents.
The Touring Experience

Holidays are not always just about lounging on a beach soaking up the rays. If your preference is to be out and about and explore the country you are visiting, then The Touring Experience by If Only… is designed with you in mind.

All our touring packages are operated using private vehicles and the services of a driver and local guide. Guides are specialists in their destination, at your disposal to introduce you to the scenery, the people, the culture and the heritage.

Our hand-picked touring modules can be tailor-made to your specific requirements. Extra nights or a pre or post extension may be added to your itinerary. Alternatively you could bolt on a beach stay allowing you to relax and unwind after the hustle and bustle of your tour.

In many of our destinations, we offer a choice of either ‘classic’ or ‘premium’ accommodation. Hotel types vary from exclusive retreats to modern international chains, from small family run hotels to amazing opulent palaces. There is something to suit all tastes and budgets.

Tours are available in:
• Oman
• Sri Lanka

Tours featured in our Asia brochure include:
• India
• Nepal
• Bhutan
• Thailand
• Myanmar (Burma)
• Vietnam
• Cambodia
• Laos
• Malaysia and Borneo
• Indonesia

Tours featured in our Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands brochure include:
• Australia
• New Zealand
• Fiji
• Tahiti
The Multi-Centre Experience

For those travellers wishing to have two holiday experiences in one - the multi centre holiday concept is ideal.

Our airline partners offer extensive, worldwide routings making travel between various destinations very simple and convenient. Given that quality accommodation and superb service are the common denominators throughout, the most discerning of clients are able to take advantage of and enjoy two very different experiences.

Why not contrast the hustle and bustle of the souks and shopping in Dubai or Abu Dhabi with the tropical romance of Mauritius, or the tranquillity of the endless white sandy beaches of the Seychelles? Or how about mixing the culture of a Sri Lankan tour with the relaxation of a spa holiday in the Maldives? Alternatively, why not combine the trip of a lifetime on the Eastern and Oriental Express with a stay in Singapore or Bangkok? The combinations are almost limitless and our knowledgeable and well travelled reservations team will be only too happy to tailor make your dream itinerary.

Here are some examples to inspire...

Dubai and Mauritius
From £1755 per person
3 Nights at JA Ocean View Hotel, Dubai in a Seaview Room on a Bed and Breakfast basis.
7 Nights at Veranda Pointe aux Biches Hotel, Mauritius in a Comfort Room on an All Inclusive basis.
Price based on two persons sharing and includes flights and transfers.

Sri Lanka and Maldives
From £2675 per person
4 Nights at Anantara Kalutara, Sri Lanka in a Premier Garden View Room on a Bed and Breakfast basis.
7 Nights at OBLU by Atmosphere At Helengeli, Maldives in a Beach Villa on an All Inclusive basis.
Price based on two persons sharing and includes flights and speedboat transfers.

Dubai and Malaysia
From £1629 per person
3 Nights at JA Ocean View Hotel, Dubai in a Seaview Room on a Bed and Breakfast basis.
3 Nights at The Majestic Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in a Deluxe Room on a Bed and Breakfast basis.
7 Nights at The Andaman, a Luxury Collection Resort, in a Deluxe Rainforest Room on a Bed & Breakfast basis.
Price based on two persons sharing and includes flights and transfers.

Thailand
From £1625 per person
3 Nights at Rembrandt Hotel Bangkok in a Deluxe Room on a Bed and Breakfast basis.
3 Nights at Tamarind Village, Chiang Mai in a Lanna Room on a Bed & Breakfast basis.
7 Nights at the MANATHAI Koh Samui, in a Deluxe Balcony Room on a Bed & Breakfast basis.
Price based on two persons sharing and includes flights and transfers.

Some of the above are included in our Arabia & Indian Ocean Brochure.
To further whet your appetite:

Sri Lanka/Maldives & Dubai
Maldives and Abu Dhabi
Abu Dhabi & Sri Lanka
Seychelles & Dubai
Seychelles & Abu Dhabi
Sri Lanka & Maldives
Sri Lanka Experience Tour & Beach stay
Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Koh Samui
Dubai and Thailand
Vietnam and Cambodia
Singapore and Bali
Thailand and Maldives
Bangkok, Eastern & Oriental Express and Singapore
Malaysia and Dubai
Thailand multi centres
Vietnam multi centres
India and Nepal
Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos
India and Sri Lanka
Dubai and Australia
Dubai and New Zealand
Singapore and Australia
Singapore and New Zealand
Singapore and Fiji
Los Angeles and Tahiti
Los Angeles and Rarotonga

Some of the above are included in our Arabia & Indian Ocean and Australia, New Zealand & The Pacific Islands Brochures.
The Cruise Experience with Silversea

With true Italian passion for embracing the best that life has to offer, the Lefebvre family of Rome created a pioneering company that would offer an experience of personalised travel which would set the standard for luxury cruising world-wide.

Silversea offers premium all-inclusive luxury cruises to a range of over 900 thrilling destinations. Sailing with Silversea guests can experience impeccable service, gourmet cuisine, spacious ocean-view suites, and an abundance of onboard activities, in addition to enthralling ports of call.

Seven Ships - Seven continents - Infinite possibilities.

Personalised Service

Silversea luxury cruises begin with a warm welcome and a chilled glass of champagne. The highly trained Silversea crew will anticipate guest’s every need with a supreme level of personalised service.

Butler Service in All Suites

Butler service is available to all guests staying in all suite categories. Butlers are proficient, attentive and will indulge every whim. From unpacking your suitcase to polishing shoes, every need is anticipated aboard the Silversea fleet.

Luxury Cruise Suites

Silversea’s suites offer more space than is customary of luxury ocean travel, all offer ocean views and over 85% include a private veranda. A robe and slippers, Italian marble bathroom, flat-screen TV, iPod docking station, in-suite bar and Bvlgari® or hypoallergenic bath amenities are all offered as standard.

Dining Options

Dining is of the utmost importance at Silversea and gastronomic excellence is a given thanks to Silversea’s partnership with the respected Grands Chefs Relais & Châteaux. No matter where guests dine, their influence is apparent in the great diversity and presentation of culinary selections on board each all-inclusive cruise.

Silversea offers a choice of dining venues aboard all ships. The main dining room aboard every Silversea ship, The Restaurant, provides open seating so you may dine at your leisure with new friends.

Other restaurant options may include Le Champagne, a Relais & Châteaux restaurant, the glamorous Stars Supper Club and the relaxed outdoor Pool Grill.

Enrichment Experiences

Aside from unadulterated luxury and pampering, many discerning If Only… clients may be looking for that little bit extra. Silversea offers a range of enrichment programmes including lectures, informal talks and demonstrations to enrich guest’s understanding of the places visited and the people who live there, all led by guest speakers, noted historians, bestselling authors, destination consultants and world affairs experts.

On Board Cruise Activities

In today’s fast paced society time is often of the essence. Days at sea offer the perfect opportunity to redress the balance; choose to lounge on the deck or your private veranda, indulge in afternoon tea, be pampered in the spa, or for those wishing to use their time a little more altruistically, take dance or computer lessons whilst wine tastings and cooking demonstrations enable guests to sample the flavours of the lands visited. The choices are many and varied.

Evenings may be spent mingling with fellow international travellers, sipping cocktails, being enthralled by the stage show or entertainer, taking a chance in the casino, strolling on the deck or dancing the night away.

Exceptional Shore Excursions

Silversea Destination Consultants will help guests to maximise their time ashore, with expert planning to ensure a meaningful and authentic experience. Shore excursions can be in a group, ensuring that guests never miss the all-important destination highlights or private, allowing individuals to seek out the hidden gem they have heard about through the grapevine.

Silversea offer a comprehensive variety of luxury worldwide voyages. Our If Only… cruise experts will be delighted to tailor make cruise experiences according to individual requirements including adding pre- or -post cruise stays and side trips. Please refer to ifonly.net for details on specific voyages.
The Asia Experience

Asia - exotic, eclectic, exhilarating.

Asia is a land rich with diversity. It has it all: cosmopolitan cities, quaint villages, friendly people, rich culture and heritage in addition to tantalising cuisine. This is a land strewn with UNESCO World Heritage sites, beautiful tropical beaches, verdant rainforests, paddyfields and jungles, a multitude of temples, pagodas, monuments, holy sites, vast deserts and colourful markets as well as being rich in wildlife.

India demands that you fully engage your senses. It is vibrant and timeless, hectic and serene. Nepal not only offers breathtaking scenery, but is also an adventurer’s paradise with hiking, white-water rafting and safaris on offer amongst many other activities. Bhutan is still a largely unspoilt and undiscovered country, rich in culture and scenery.

Thailand offers a contrast between the bustling and vibrant city of Bangkok and the tranquillity of its beautiful islands and Myanmar (Burma), only recently opened up to tourism, has a rich culture and fantastic scenery to share.

Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos enjoy a rich and distinctive heritage. From the hustle and bustle of the cities, to the UNESCO world heritage sites, from awe inspiring scenery to the friendly locals, all offer the discerning traveller an easily combinable variety of options.

Malaysia is a country full of diversity, from colonial architecture to idyllic beaches and jungles teeming with wildlife whilst Indonesia offers a landscape dotted with paddyfields, volcanic mountains, temples and palaces.

Special Offers

Throughout the year we are able to negotiate some excellent offers with our featured resorts and airline partners. These could include free nights offers or complimentary room upgrades. When making your enquiry, please ask our specialists for updated details of these special offers.

Non Brochured Hotels And Resorts

As you will appreciate, it is impossible within these pages to encompass all of the hotels and resorts with whom we enjoy a good working relationship. Accordingly, if you have an interest in a resort we have not featured, please contact our reservations team.
A glimpse of India

This Mecca for visitors offers an exhilarating and mesmerising potpourri of exciting sounds, irresistible flavours, intoxicating aromas and intense colours to fully engage one’s senses. It is vibrant and timeless, a place where the wonders of the past are comfortable bedfellows with the contemporary - an enchanting land with compelling secrets.

The expression ‘a country of diverse contrasts’ could never be more apt. One cannot help but be seduced by the charm of this exotic destination which can be both hectic and serene. In this seductive land, ancient culture and customs exist in tandem with a hotbed of entrepreneurialism and chic designer boutiques. The stark variation in ethnic backgrounds, cultures and religions simply adds to an already magic cocktail.

The discerning traveller is spoiled for choice, there being a host of pursuits and experiences at one’s fingertips. In addition to its cultural and spiritual heritage, this beguiling destination also offers exciting wildlife, breathtaking scenery, snow-capped mountains and beautiful sundrenched beaches.

Initially one is inevitably drawn towards the famous Golden Triangle. Visitors can experience the hustle and bustle of Delhi, the fierce magnificence of Jaipur, and Agra, where the memory of the sunrise or sunset over the iconic Taj Mahal is one to be truly cherished. Be in awe of the stunning architecture and fairytale palaces of Rajasthan as well as the quaint villages and imposing forts.

India offers close to one hundred national parks and visitors can relish the anticipation of spotting the elusive Bengal tiger, a leopard, the Asian elephant or perhaps the one horned rhino, in addition to a variety of other exotic wildlife.

Almost 600km of Arabian Sea coastline are punctuated by the golden beaches of Kovalam. Yet Kerala is so much more, reside on a majestic houseboat in the backwaters of Cochin. Dine on the famed delicately spiced seafood of the region or rejuvenate in one of the many ayurvedic spas offering a variety of holistic treatments.

And to unwind at the end of a trip what better than to relax on the sun-kissed, palm-fringed, white sandy beaches of cosmopolitan Goa with its renowned laid-back vibe and Portuguese influence.

To complement all its other attributes, India also offers truly stunning deluxe hotels, superlative service levels, delectable cuisine and the friendliest of welcomes.

Situated over 800 miles from the Indian mainland, the enchanting Andaman Islands are the perfect place to get away from it all. With lush mangrove forests, white powdery beaches and the brilliant turquoise sea beyond, the Andaman Islands are home to a warm and friendly population comprising a mix of cultures from India and South East Asia. The archipelago consists of over 200 islands, but only about 10 are open to tourists. The most developed of these is Havelock Island, accessed by ferry from Port Blair, where the airport is located.

**Destination Data**

- **Location:** Bounded by the Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal and bordering Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- **Local Time:** GMT + 5.5 hours
- **Flying time:** Approximately 8.5 hours to New Delhi
- **Visa:** Required to be arranged in advance of travel for UK and Irish passport holders
- **Currency:** Indian Rupee
- **Vaccinations:** Recommended, contact your doctor
- **Electricity:** 220 - 240 volts

**Weather Data**

Please see page 24 for a weather guide. Weather patterns are unpredictable and this data should be used as a guide only.
**Weather Data**

Weather patterns are unpredictable and this data should be used as a guide only. Temperatures in the North and Himalayas may drop considerably at night.

### North - based on Delhi

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### South East - based on Chennai

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### Himalayas - based on Shimla

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The Golden Triangle
8 day, 7 night private tour

The ‘Golden Triangle’ - Delhi, Agra and Jaipur - encompasses the perfect combination of sights for the first-time India visitor, or indeed the repeat visitor who has not had the opportunity to experience some of these incredible places.

The journey begins with India’s vast capital, Delhi, which is made up of the ‘old city’ with its bustling markets and stunning Mughal architecture, and New Delhi with wide tree lined avenues, beautiful gardens, and imposing buildings designed by renowned British architect Edwin Lutyens. Moving on, you visit Agra to experience the timeless beauty of the Taj Mahal, and then on to Jaipur, also known as the ‘Pink City’. Jaipur is the capital of the desert state of Rajasthan, dotted with forts and palaces, many still home to Maharajas. It is also home to the elaborately designed City Palace with its museum brimming with historic memorabilia, an ancient observatory and the hilltop fort of Amber.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Travel to India
Fly to Delhi on an evening flight.

Day 2: Delhi
Arrive in Delhi, where you will be met on arrival and escorted to your hotel for a two-night stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure to unwind, or perhaps venture out to Connaught Place to visit the shops and sample some local restaurants.

Day 3: Delhi
Tour of vibrant Old Delhi - including Jama Masjid, India’s largest mosque, Rajghat, the resting place of Mahatma Gandhi, and the bazaars at Chandhi Chowk. Then visit New Delhi to see the Qub Minar, the elaborate tomb of Emperor Humayun, India Gate and the buildings designed by Edwin Lutyens.

Day 4: Delhi - Agra
Board the ‘Shatabdi Express’ train to Agra for a visit of the unrivalled monument to love, the Taj Mahal. Also visit the Agra Fort where Emperor Shah Jehan was incarcerated by his own son Aurangzeb. Stay at your hotel in Agra for the night.

Day 5: Agra - Jaipur
Enjoy an interesting drive to Jaipur today (6 hours in an air-conditioned chauffeur-driven car) visiting the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri en route.

Day 6: Jaipur
Visit the imposing hilltop fort at Amber, on the outskirts of Jaipur ascending on elephant back (subject to availability of elephants) or by jeep. Then, tour Jaipur, the ‘Pink City’, visiting the Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds), City Palace and Museum, the ancient ‘Jantar Mantar’ an astronomical observatory and the busy markets.

Day 7: Jaipur
The day is at leisure to enjoy your charming palace hotel and further explore this characterful city or to relax by the pool.

Day 8: Depart India
Fly back to Delhi to connect with your flight home.

Tour Hotels

Classic
Delhi.................................The Maidens (4* colonial style)
Agra.................................The Trident (4* modern)
Jaipur...............................Samode Haveli (3* superior)

Premium
Delhi.................................The Imperial (5* colonial style)
Agra.................................Oberoi Amar Vilas (5* deluxe)
Jaipur.................................Oberoi Rajvilas (5* deluxe)

Prices from £1639 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Classic accommodation.

Prices from £2605 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Premium accommodation.

Price includes accommodation and breakfast daily, entrance fees, all transfers and English speaking guides for sightseeing in each destination as well as full programme as specified and transportation in private chauffeur-driven air-conditioned vehicle. Price includes return scheduled flights and all airport taxes.

For information on hotels please refer to pages 30, 31 and 58 - 65. Should you wish to extend your stay in India suggestions are listed on pages 32 and 33.

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
India

The Golden Triangle
8 day, 7 night private tour
Ananda In The Himalayas
Narendra Nagar, India

This award winning spa hotel is a tranquil retreat in which to rejuvenate the mind and body. The property includes the Maharaja’s palace of Narendra Nagar, and the restored Viceregal Palace which was added in 1910. Making a statement with colours that echo nature, guestrooms at Ananda are spacious with views of the Palace and the Rishikesh valley, while the Garden Suites face either the Valley or the Maharaja’s palace.

The 24,000 square foot spa offers a menu of over 80 body and beauty treatments, integrating the traditional Indian systems of Ayurveda with the more contemporary Western spa approach. With menus designed for each individual guest, Ananda provides a rejuvenation cuisine for guests, who, whilst relaxing, desire to re-vitalize their body and soul through a healthy approach to diet and lifestyle. In the show kitchen at Ananda, chefs instruct guests on how to make these dishes at home so that one may continue that ‘way of life’.

At a glance
Location: Nestled in a 100-acre Himalayan mountain forest estate, overlooking the River Ganges near Rishikesh.
Transfer time: Approximately 60 minutes from Jolly Grant Airport.
Rooms/suites: 78.
Restaurants/bars: 3.
Water Activities: Swimming Pool.
Land Activities: Yoga, golf, gymnasium, billiards, lectures, and cooking classes.
Spa/Beauty Services: Spa.
Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.
The Oberoi Amarvilas

Agra, India

Offering unrivalled views of the iconic Taj Mahal, The Oberoi Amarvilas pays homage to its Mughal splendour in a stunning display of terraced lawns, fountains, reflection pools and pavilions. Opulent rooms and suites, each with outstanding views of the Taj Mahal, lavishly designed bathrooms and 24-hour butler service guarantee both a comfortable and memorable stay.

Enjoy Indian and continental favourites at Bellevue or candlelit dinners accompanied by live traditional music at Esphahan. In the bar, guests may sip on a champagne cocktail, martini or signature iced tea while admiring the Taj Mahal. Soak up the sun by the pool, cool down in the Mughal inspired relaxation area or indulge with a revitalising treatment or indigenous ritual at the spa.

At a glance

Location: 600 metres from the Taj Mahal.
Transfer time: Approximately 40 minutes from Agra airport.
Rooms/suites: 102.
Restaurants/bars: 3.
Water Activities: Swimming Pool.
Land Activities: Fitness centre, beauty parlour and yoga.
Spa/Beauty Services: Oberoi Spa.
Board basis: Bed and Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.

India
The Oberoi Rajvilas

Jaipur, India

The Oberoi Rajvilas is a royal resort set in a breathtaking thirty two acre oasis of tranquil landscaped gardens, filled with beautiful trees and exotic birdlife. Built around an 18th century Shiva temple where guests can experience chanting with a Hindu priest, meditation and morning yoga, The Oberoi Rajvilas, Jaipur is a haven of mystical peace and natural serenity.

Throughout the resort in Jaipur, traditional techniques have been used to replicate the famous pink lime plaster walls of the historic city. Also adorned with Mughal arches, gold leaf frescoes, high domed ceilings and magnificent crystal chandeliers, The Oberoi Rajvilas, Jaipur epitomises traditional Rajasthani charm and Oberoi luxury within its traditional fort setting.

At a glance

Location: Just outside Jaipur.
Transfer time: 30 minutes from Jaipur International Airport.
Rooms/suites: 71.
Restaurants/bars: 3.
Water activities: Swimming pool.
Land activities: Gym, tennis, croquet.
Spa/Beauty Services: Spa.
Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.
Tour Extensions and Festivals

If Only… in conjunction with our local Destination Management Company TWX, offers a selection of tours in North India which can be tailor-made to suit most requirements including additional night stays and excursions. Other hotels are available at a supplement. Please ask our destination experts for more details.

Creativity and passion are at the heart of everything Travel World Experiences does. With a capable and experienced team of experts, a modern fleet of vehicles and a network of associate offices right across the sub-continent, guests are in good hands with TWX. With representatives in each city, and a local mobile phone for all clients travelling with them, they are well equipped to ensure that visits to the Indian sub-continent will be seamless and well organised, leaving guests to enjoy the sights and sounds of this incredible part of the world.

Ranthambore
Combinable with Golden Triangle.

Once the private hunting reserve of Maharajas, Ranthambore is today one of India’s best known and most accessible national parks. Boasting a healthy tiger population and being home to many other species of animals, this park also surrounds a formidable 10th century fort.

Goa
Combinable with Golden Triangle, Rajasthan and Beyond, Temples and Tigers, Maharajas’ Express and Deccan Odyssey.

Fly to Goa for a five night stay. Time in Goa is at leisure to soak up the sun and enjoy the laid back atmosphere of this former Portuguese colony. Optional sightseeing includes visits to the churches of Old Goa and the markets of Goa’s vibrant capital, Panaji.

Kathmandu
Combinable with Golden Triangle, Rajasthan and Beyond and Maharaja’s Express.

Fly to Kathmandu for a four night stay. Visit the fantastic sights of this charming city, including the World Heritage Site of Swayambhunath, also known as the Monkey Temple and Kathmandu’s Durbar Square, located in the heart of the old city. This area is home to around 50 temples including the 17th Century Durbar Complex, the Parvati Temple and the Great Bell and Drum. There is also sufficient time to soak in the bustling markets. Take the opportunity to enjoy a mountain flight to see the Himalayan peaks including Everest (subject to clear weather) during the time in Kathmandu, with sufficient time to explore the busy streets and bazaars.

Shimla in the Mighty Himalaya
Combinable with Golden Triangle, Rajasthan and Beyond and Maharaja’s Express.

Board the early morning Shatabdi Express train to Kalka in the Himalayan foothills and change to the unique and fascinating Himalayan Queen ‘toy train’ which will wind its way up through the hills to the ‘hill station’ of Shimla. During a three night stay, visit the sights of this former British ‘summer capital’ which include the Viceregal Lodge and the Sankat Mochan Temple or enjoy a walk along the Mall.

Eastern Treasures - Kolkata and the Tea Country
Combinable with Golden Triangle, Rajasthan and Beyond and Maharaja’s Express.

Enjoy a three night stay at the charming Glenburn Tea Estate. There is time here to indulge in a range of pursuits on offer - walks around the 1,000 acre tea estate, enjoying local recipes produced from Glenburn’s own vegetable and herb gardens or sitting back with a book and enjoying the crisp mountain air. All this against the stunning backdrop of the mighty Himalayan mountain range.
Mysore, Nagarhole, and Ooty
Combinable with Kerala – On the Spice Trail.

The city of Mysore is built around an imposing palace, still home to the Maharaja today. Enjoy a two night stay; visit the Maharaja’s palace, Chamundi Hill and the colourful and vibrant fruit and vegetable markets. Named after the winding river which runs through its midst, Nagarhole National Park is a picturesque reserve close to Mysore, with diverse wildlife and spectacular scenery. Ooty is often referred to as the ‘Queen of Hill Stations’ – along with neighbouring Coonoor this former colonial hill retreat has long been a popular destination to escape the heat of the plains in the summer months.

Kerala Wildlife extension
Combinable with Kerala – On the Spice Trail.

The state of Kerala is abundant in rich and diverse flora and fauna, and a journey into some of the less visited areas of the region can be a truly rewarding experience. Don’t expect luxury, but do expect amazing views and the chance to experience some incredible natural beauty and traditional life few visitors are lucky enough to see. Time in Munnar can be spent enjoying a day walk through these lush green hills, before driving on to Sethumada and two nights in a traditional ‘farmstay’. While in Sethumada, choose to visit Parambikulam National Park and a nearby tribal village before spending a final night in Kerala at Rainforest Athirapally overlooking the scenic waterfalls.

Malabar Extension (North Kerala)
Combinable with Kerala – On the Spice Trail.

North Kerala, known as the Malabar region, boasts a rich and diverse trading history and an equally intriguing mix of cultures. The hills and forests of this relatively remote area are abundant in biodiversity, and offer the visitor the chance to take in the bird life and dramatic views at a delightfully leisurely pace. For a truly Indian experience, this extension begins with a night in a traditional family home. The following day, drive to Wayanad (4 hours) for two nights at a homestay perched on a coffee and spice estate. The time spent here is at leisure, with the opportunity to learn more about the area, take in the views and perhaps have a dip in the pool. From Wayanad descend back towards the Malabar coast for a four night stay at Neeleshwar or Bekal. Time here can be spent relaxing by the pool or exploring the nearby fort, villages and markets.

Indian Festivals

Holi
Often referred to as the festival of colour, Holi is a Hindu festival which is celebrated by throwing coloured powder on friends, family and often complete strangers! Based on events in Hindu mythology, Holi celebrates the arrival of Spring along with the vibrant colours and new life the season brings, whilst also commemorating the victory of good over evil.

According to legend, Prahalad, the son of Hiranyakashyap the Demon King, refused to accept the King as ruler of the universe saying God was more powerful. As a result, the King decided to kill Prahalad and after several tried and trusted methods failed, as Prahalad proved to be very resilient (or perhaps protected by the Gods), he asked his sister Holika to do away with the boy. Being a demon, Holika had special powers and was immune to the burning effects of fire, so she captured Prahalad and held him on her lap whilst sitting on a raging bonfire. Prahalad simply prayed to Lord Vishnu for protection, and while Holika perished in the flames, Prahalad survived – and good won over evil.

Diwali
Diwali is a five day Autumn celebration known as the festival of light, and celebrates the power of light over darkness, or like other Hindu festivals, good over evil, and the light of knowledge overpowering ignorance. It is celebrated across the sub-continent, and coincides with the Hindu New Year. Families clean and redecorate their homes and traditionally make significant purchases, from new clothes and home utensils to furniture and even cars. Diyas, or oil lamps, are lit throughout the home (signifying light), and fire crackers play an important, and very visual (and audible) role in the festivities throughout the cities, towns, villages and countryside.
The Leela Palace
New Delhi, India

Built in the shape of a butterfly, The Leela Palace is committed to taking guest service to reverential heights, welcoming guests to a world of grandeur and luxury. Graceful and elegant rooms offer luxurious comfort with 5 Star amenities, while lavish suites boast private plunge pools and Jacuzzis.

The award-winning restaurants combine an innovative design experience with world-class cuisines. Enjoy all day dining at the cosmopolitan Qube, French-Italian fare at Le Cirque and exquisite drinks at The Library. Unwind at The Spa by ESPA after spending the day exploring New Delhi. Split over 2 levels, the spa offers some of the best European, Oriental and Ayurvedic therapies, a roof terrace, sauna and steam room.

At a glance
Location: Close to the central business district and historical monuments.
Transfer time: Approximately 15 minutes from Delhi International Airport.
Rooms/suites: 254.
Restaurants/bars: 6.
Water Activities: Rooftop temperature controlled swimming pool.
Land Activities: State-of-the-art fitness studio.
Spa/Beauty Services: Spa by ESPA.
Board basis: Bed and Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★★
The Leela Palace Udaipur

Udaipur, India

The Leela Palace Udaipur offers a spectacular view of the tranquil waters of the Lake Pichola, the City Palace and the Aravalli mountains, and evokes the grandeur and opulence of the land of the Mewars. The elegant and contemporary interiors of the rooms and suites are embellished with traditional elements of Rajasthan design and artistry.

Enjoy world class dining in fabulous settings: under the stars or in an exotic restaurant. Indulge in al fresco fine dining at Sheesh Mahal, embark on an international culinary journey at Dining Room or enjoy an expertly mixed cocktail in Library Bar. With a lake facing pool, spa and an array of restaurants and superlative lounges, the palace provides a fairytale setting for a royal Mewar experience.

At a glance

Location: Overlooking Lake Pichola.
Transfer time: Approximately 45 minutes drive from Udaipur Int’l Airport.
Rooms/suites: 80.
Restaurants/bars: 3.
Water activities: Swimming Pool with Jacuzzi, boat trips.
Land activities: Yoga and meditation studio, bocce and croquet.
Spa/Beauty Services: Spa by ESPA.
Board basis: Bed and Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★★
This journey begins in India’s vibrant capital, Delhi, with its mix of markets and ancient architecture in Old Delhi, and parks and colonial buildings, remnants of the ‘British Raj’ in New Delhi.

Move on to the ancient city of Varanasi, one of the oldest living cities, and an important spiritual centre for Hindus, situated on the banks of the sacred Ganges. There is no better way to throw oneself into India’s culture than to explore this city’s narrow, frenetic streets, and cruise along the river at dawn, witnessing masses of devotees immersing themselves in the holy water along the banks.

On to Khajuraho, home to the Chandela Temples with erotic carvings from the Kamasutra, with the chance to see a sound and light show at the temples, before a typically Indian experience, a short train ride to Agra. The Shatabdi Express is one of India’s express trains and will transport guests to Agra in air-conditioned comfort within a couple of hours.

Straddling the Yamuna River, Agra is home to the iconic monument of love, the Taj Mahal, built by emperor Shah Jehan in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, and a must see for every visitor to India.

Renowned for stunning forts, regal palaces and a noble and vibrant history, Rajasthan is the land of the fearsome Rajput warrior kings and encapsulates much of what India has always been famous for. The sun-drenched sands of the Great Thar Desert in the north have witnessed centuries of thriving trade, being on the historical caravan routes between Europe and Asia, and are dotted with elaborately painted ‘havelis’ or mansions, belonging to wealthy trader families. The cities are home to ornate palaces, imposing forts and teeming markets. The rugged Aravali Hills in the south provide shelter and sustenance to varied wildlife.

Visit the bustling city of Jaipur, the beautiful Chhatra Sagar Reservoir and stay in a charming tented camp followed by a stop at the ‘City of Lakes’, Udaipur. Highlights of Rajasthan include the spectacular Meherangarh Fort in Jodhpur (the Blue City), a visit to rural homes in the desert and the opportunity to stay by the lake, or even on the lake, in Udaipur.

### Tour Itinerary

**Day 1: Travel to India**
Board an overnight flight to Delhi.

**Day 2: Delhi**

Arrive in Delhi where you will be met and transferred to your hotel, for a two night stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure, to spend by the pool or for exploring the shops and restaurants at Connaught Place.

**Day 3: Delhi**

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of the colourful ‘old city’ - this includes the Jama Masjid, India’s largest mosque, Rajghat, the resting place of Mahatma Gandhi and the bustling bazaars at Chandhi Chowk. Visit the sights of New Delhi in the afternoon, which include the Qutb Minar, the elaborate tomb of the Mughal Emperor Humayun, India Gate and the colonial government buildings designed by Edwin Lutyens.

**Day 4: Delhi - Varanasi**

Take a morning flight to Varanasi, renowned to be the oldest living city in the world. Experience an evening ‘Aarti’ ceremony on the banks of the River Ganges.

**Day 5: Varanasi**

Enjoy a sunrise boat ride on the holy river, witnessing throngs of devotees at prayer along the banks. In the afternoon visit Sarnath, site of Lord Buddha’s first sermon.

**Day 6: Varanasi - Khajuraho**

A short flight takes you to Khajuraho, for a one night stay. Enjoy a tour of the famous Chandela Temples, followed by a sound and light show.

**Day 7: Kajuraho – Jhansi - Agra**

Drive to Jhansi, visiting Orchha (dotted with cenotaphs and temples) en route. Board the comfortable ‘Shatabdi Express’ train from Jhansi to Agra, and transfer to your hotel for two nights.

**Day 8: Agra**

Visit the Taj Mahal, the eternal monument to love and the Agra Fort, across the Yamuna River from the Taj Mahal.

**Day 9: Agra - Jaipur**

This morning enjoy an interesting drive to Jaipur (6 hours), visiting the deserted sandstone city of Fatehpur Sikri en route in addition to passing through several colourful villages. Stay for two nights in Jaipur, also known as ‘the Pink City’.
Rajasthan and Beyond
continued...

Day 10: Jaipur
Visit the Amber Fort set on a hilltop on the outskirts of Jaipur. This hill is normally ascended on elephant back, subject to availability of elephants. In the afternoon enjoy a guided tour of Jaipur city’s sights, which include the Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds), the City Palace and Museum, the ‘Jantar Mantar’ astronomical observatory and the bustling markets.

Day 11: Jaipur - Nimaj
Embark on a four hour drive further into the desert to stay at a charming camp near the village of Nimaj for the night. The afternoon is at leisure to explore the rural surroundings, or enjoy bird watching at the Chhatra Sagar Reservoir.

Day 12: Nimaj - Jodhpur
Drive to Jodhpur (3 hours). Jodhpur is the home of the imposing Meherangarh Fort, towering above the bustling city’s streets and alleyways. Stay in Jodhpur for two nights.

Day 13: Jodhpur
Visit the sprawling Meherangarh Fort. In the afternoon there is the opportunity to enjoy a village safari by 4x4, to meet some of the locals and witness their lifestyles and customs.

Day 14: Jodhpur - Udaipur
Drive to Udaipur, the ‘lake city’, today (6-7 hours) visiting the stunning and peaceful Jain temples at Ranakpur en route. Stay two nights in Udaipur, to soak in the relaxed ambience of Lake Pichola.

Day 15: Udaipur
Explore the city’s sights, including the City Palace, Jagdish Temple and ‘Sahelion-ki-bari’ gardens. The remainder of the day is at leisure, to explore the bazaars or enjoy your hotel’s resplendent surroundings.

Day 16: Depart India
Fly home, changing in Delhi or Mumbai.

Tour Hotels

Classic
Delhi..........................Maidens (4* period)
Varanasi......................Gateway Hotel Ganges (4* modern)
Khajuraho....................Lalit Temple View (5* modern)
Agra............................Radisson Blu (4* modern)
Jaipur........................Samode Haveli (3*+ heritage)
Nimaj..........................Chhatrasagar (luxury tent)
Jodhpur......................Raas (4* boutique)
Udaipur...............Trident Udaipur (4* modern)

Premium
Delhi..........................The Leela Palace (5* luxury modern)
Varanasi....................Nadesar Palace (5* palace)
Khajuraho....................Lalit Temple View (5* modern)
Agra............................Oberoi Amar Vilas (5* deluxe)
Jodhpur......................Oberoi Raj Vilas (5* modern)
Nimaj..........................Chhatrasagar (luxury tent)
Jodhpur......................Taj Umaid Bhawan Palace (5* palace)
Udaipur......................Taj Lake Palace (5* palace)

Prices from £3485 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Classic accommodation.

Prices from £6069 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Premium accommodation.

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
Umaid Bhawan Palace

Jodhpur, India

The magnificent Umaid Bhawan Palace is one of the world’s largest private residences and a stunning example of a bygone royal era, perched high above the city. Modern amenities and striking antique furniture blend seamlessly with the original décor from princely times in the Art Deco inspired rooms and suites. The rooms and suites offer fabulous views over the immaculate palace gardens and the Mehrangarh Fort in the distance.

The Risala restaurant offers an exquisite a la carte menu and the Sunset Pavilion provides al fresco dining, specialising in enjoyable BBQs. Outdoor dining experiences can be arranged by the hotel including dinner at the Mehrangarh Fort and sundeck lunches under maharaja tents.

At a glance

Location: Jodhpur.
Transfer time: Approximately 20 minutes from Jodhpur airport.
Rooms/suites: 64.
Restaurants/bars: 3.
Water activities: Swimming Pool.
Land activities: Health Club, yoga, croquet, squash, tennis.
Spa/Beauty Services: Jiva Spa, Beauty Salon.
Board basis: Bed and Breakfast (Half Board also available).
Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.
Take a trip to the revered Golden Temple, the spiritual centre for the planet’s 27 million Sikhs. View the Palki Sahib ceremony, where the Granth Sahib (a shrine holding Sikhism’s most sacred scriptures) is carried on a human conveyor belt from the main shrine to the inner sanctum.

Travel onto Jallianwala Bagh on the India Pakistan border to gaze at the spectacle of the changing of the guard. Dharamshala is home to the exiled Tibetan Government and the Dalai Lama. Spend a full day exploring the shrines, temples and churches of this fascinating mountain refuge, with the stunning backdrop of the Himalayas.

Relive the high life of the British Raj. Shimla known as the Queen of Hill stations became the summer capital for the British, when soldiers, merchants and civil servants moved up to the Himalayas for a break from the scorching heat of the plains below. Ride the famous Toy Train and revel in Shimla’s colonial past.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Travel to India
Fly on an overnight indirect flight to Amritsar.

Day 2: Amritsar
Arrive in Amritsar where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. In the evening witness the Palki ceremony at the Golden Temple.

Day 3: Amritsar
After breakfast enjoy a half day city tour, revisit the Golden Temple and the Guru La Langar, where up to 75,000 pilgrims are fed each day. In the late afternoon travel to Wagah on the India-Pakistan border to watch the changing of the guard.

Day 4: Amritsar – Hoshiarpur
After breakfast take the 3 hour driver to Hoshiarpur. Stay overnight on a working citrus farm for a taste of rural Punjabi hospitality.

Day 5: Hoshiarpur – Dharamshala
After breakfast continue the journey (approximately 5 hours) to Dharamshala, where you spend the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 6: Dharamshala
Visit the Norbulingka Institute, developed by the Dalai Lama for the continuation of Tibetan arts and crafts. Tsuk La Khang, the Dalai Lama’s temple is the life blood of the village, housing the Monastery and shrine rooms. Also visit the gothic St John’s Church.

Day 7: Dharamshala – Pragpur
Drive to the Heritage Village of Pragpur in the Kangra Valley. Spend the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 8: Pragpur – Shimla
Continue on to Shimla, the former Summer capital of the British Raj. Upon arrival check in and spend the rest of day exploring at leisure.

Day 9: Shimla
Ride the famous Toy Train from Shimla to Tara Devi, considered the “crown jewel” of the Indian railway system under the Raj. Later visit the Vice Regal Lodge and the Sankat Mochan Temple.

Day 10: Shimla
Day at leisure

Day 11: Shimla – Chandigarh - Delhi
After breakfast drive to Chandigarh airport (approximately 4 hours) for the flight to Delhi. Upon arrival in Delhi you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Day 12: Depart India
After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home.
Tour Hotels

Class
Amritsar ....................... Hyatt Amritsar (5* modern)
Hoshiarpur ....................... Citrus County (3* farmstay)
Dharamshala ................... Chonor House (guesthouse)
Pragpur ....................... The Judge’s Court (3* heritage)
Shimla ............................. The Oberoi Cecil (5* period hotel)
Delhi ................................ Novotel New Delhi Aerocity (5* modern)

Premium
Amritsar ....................... Taj Swarna, Amritsar (5* luxury)
Hoshiarpur ....................... Citrus County (3* farmstay)
Dharamshala ................... Fortune Park Moksha (5* modern)
Pragpur ....................... The Judge’s Court (3* heritage)
Shimla ............................. Wildflower Hall (5* luxury)
Delhi ................................ Marriott Hotel New Delhi Aerocity (5* modern)

Prices from £2455 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Classic accommodation.

Prices from £2845 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Premium accommodation.

Price includes accommodation as specified in itinerary, meals as stated, entrance fees, all transfers, full programme as specified and transportation in an air-conditioned coach with an English-speaking guide. Price includes return scheduled flights and all airport taxes. All travelling times are estimated and can be influenced by traffic volumes, road conditions, local event and weather.

For information on hotels please refer to pages 66 and 58 - 65. Should you wish to extend your stay in India suggestions are listed on pages 32 and 33.

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
There are few experiences as exhilarating as witnessing this amazing animal in its natural habitat, and fewer places where you have the opportunity to do so.

The jungles of central India provide a home for a variety of wildlife including the langur, tiger, leopard, wolf, jackal, sloth bear, wild boar, spotted deer and Indian gaur, plus around 250 different bird species.

This tour brings together an eclectic mix of experiences, including a bustling metropolis, ancient temples and fabled jungles. Begin in Mumbai, India’s sprawling economic hub, and see the ‘Gateway of India’, Crawford Market and the Elephanta Caves, before travelling to Maheshwar for a three night stay in the unique Ahilya Fort on the banks of the Narmada River. Then travel to Satpura National Park, with some of the most spectacular scenery amongst all of India’s parks, before continuing on to the two parks which inspired Rudyard Kipling’s ‘Jungle Book’, Pench and Kanha, with their abundance of flora and fauna including a thriving tiger population.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Travel to India
Fly on an overnight flight to Mumbai.

Day 2: Mumbai
Arrive in Mumbai, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure in India’s commercial capital.
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3: Mumbai
Take a short boat ride across Mumbai’s busy harbour to Elephanta Island to see the sculptured Hindu and Buddhist caves dating back to the 5th Century. In the afternoon visit some of the sights of this fascinating city. These include the Gateway of India, Crawford Market, ‘Dhobi Ghat’ and Marine Drive.
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4: Mumbai - Maheshwar
Fly to the central Indian city of Indore, and after a further two hour transfer arrive at the charming riverside setting at Maheshwar. The evening is at leisure in a stunning royal residence on the banks of the Narmada River. Overnight for a two night stay.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 5: Maheshwar
This day is at leisure to explore the temples along the riverbanks, take a boat ride on the river, visit the local school or just laze by the pool.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 6: Maheshwar - Satpura
After a scenic seven hour drive through the Central Indian plains, past tiny villages and fields being ploughed by oxen, arrive at the picturesque Satpura Wildlife Park for a two night stay.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 7: Satpura
Enjoy a morning game drive by open 4x4 followed by an afternoon canoe safari on the Tawa Reservoir.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 8: Satpura - Pench
Drive (7-8 hours) through the jungles and picturesque villages before arriving at Pench National Park, one of India’s foremost wildlife reserves. Stay for two nights. Activities include game drives, wildlife talks and nature walks, or simply relax by the pool.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 9: Pench
Enjoy a morning game drive. In the afternoon relax at the lodge, take a nature walk or encounter a tribal village.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 10: Pench - Kanha
After a morning safari, drive six hours to Kanha, another stunning nature reserve with a healthy Bengal tiger population. Overnight for a three night stay.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 11 & 12: Kanha
Enjoy a morning and an afternoon game drive, with lots of time for nature walks, village visits and time to catch up on reading by the pool. Nature talks and presentations are often arranged in the evenings.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

2 game drives.
Day 13: Kanha - Nagpur
Drive to Nagpur (6 hours) for the short flight back to Mumbai. Stay at an airport hotel.
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 14: Depart India
Transfer to the airport for the flight home.
Meals included: Breakfast

Tour Hotels

Classic
Mumbai.........................The Trident Nariman Point (5* modern)
Maheshwar .................... Ahilya Fort (Boutique/Royal Residence)
Satpura ......................... Forsyth Lodge (Comfortable wildlife lodge)
Pench ......................... Jamatra Wilderness Camp (Luxury Tent)
Kanha ....................... Singinawa (Comfortable wildlife lodge)
Mumbai ...................... Trident Bandra Kurla (4* modern hotel)

Premium
Mumbai.........................The Taj Mahal Palace
and Tower (5* luxury)
Maheshwar .................... Ahilya Fort (Boutique/Royal Residence)
Satpura ......................... Reni Pani (Comfortable wildlife lodge)
Pench ......................... Taj Baghvan (Luxury wildlife lodge)
Kanha ....................... Taj Banjaar Tola (luxury wildlife lodge)
Mumbai ...................... The Leela (5* airport hotel)

Prices from £3805 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Classic accommodation.

Prices from £5459 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Premium accommodation.

Price includes accommodation and meals as specified in itinerary, entrance fees, all transfers and English speaking guides for sightseeing in each destination as well as full programme as specified and transportation in private chauffeur driven air-conditioned vehicle. Price includes return scheduled flights and all airport taxes. All travelling times are estimated and can be influenced by traffic volumes, road conditions, local events and weather.

For information on hotels please refer to pages 50 and 58 - 65. Should you wish to extend your stay in India suggestions are listed on pages 32 and 33.

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
Situated on a historic stretch of Cochin’s famed harbour, the Brunton Boatyard Hotel is a tribute to another age and is the perfect place from which to watch a spectacular sunset over the palm fringed shores of Vypeen Island. The hotel interiors are an eclectic blend of English, Portuguese and Dutch influences with soaring ceilings, hanging fans, and artefacts and curios from the great age of steam and sail.

Four poster beds and warm wooden furnishings create a homely atmosphere and all rooms overlook the sea. At the History Restaurant, cuisines have been given a new lease of life, recreated faithfully each evening by chefs who did their research in the best place possible - with the old families of Cochin.

At a glance

**Location:** On a historic stretch of Cochin’s famed harbour.
**Transfer time:** Approximately one hour from Cochin International Airport.
**Rooms/suites:** 22.
**Restaurants/bars:** 1.
**Water Activities:** Swimming pool, sunset and history cruises.
**Land Activities:** Guided walking/cycling tours, cookery demonstrations.
**Spa/Beauty Services:** Ayurveda treatments.
**Board basis:** Bed and Breakfast.
**Star rating:** ★★★★★
Coconut Lagoon
Kumarakom, Kerala, India

Enjoy a short boat trip along a narrow canal, lined with wildflowers, before being greeted at Coconut Lagoon with a reviving coconut cocktail. Low rise buildings with deep verandas are interspersed with small canals and waterways, creating a haven of peace and relaxation. Comfortable rooms that have a traditional, yet relaxing atmosphere are finished with dark wood floors and cool cotton and linen fabrics. With furniture and furnishings that have been locally sourced, no two rooms are exactly the same.

Feast on authentic, home cooked Keralan food on a banana leaf in Ayemenem - dining alfresco by candlelight or indoors. The hotel’s main restaurant serves authentic Malabari food buffet style as well as fresh seafood caught from the lake.

At a glance
Location: 10 km from Kottayam, the nearest town.
Transfer time: Two hours from Cochin International Airport and a ten minute boat ride across Lake Vembanad.
Rooms/suites: 50.
Restaurants/bars: 4.
Water activities: Swimming Pool.
Land activities: Yoga and meditation centre. Cookery classes, butterfly spotting and backwater cruises.
Spa/Beauty Services: Ayurveda centre.
Board basis: Bed and Breakfast (Half Board also available).
Star rating: ★★★★
Southern Splendour - Temples and Beaches
15 day, 14 night tour

In addition to bustling cities, colourful markets, scenic hill-stations, spectacular wildlife and sun-kissed golden beaches, southern India is famous for its impressive temples with intricately carved ‘gopurams’, or towers, often the focal point of towns and cities.

Many of these temples are still ‘alive’ today and play host to thousands of devotees who come to worship within their walls. With so much on offer, a trip to the south makes for a truly rewarding experience.

Chennai, or Madras as it was formerly known, is often referred to as the ‘Gateway to the South’, and indeed lives up to its reputation in this tour. Built around Fort St. George, this vast metropolis has long been an important trading port and is also a significant manufacturing centre. Pondicherry, the next ‘port of call’ is a former French colony and still features an eclectic mix of French and South Indian culture and cuisine.

On to the pretty villages of Chettinad, where guests may stay in a beautifully restored trader’s mansion, an ideal base from which to visit the local markets and temples. The temple town of Madurai is home to the stunning Shree Meenakshi Temple, one of the best examples of South Indian temple architecture. Then make the journey up into the cool air of the Western Ghats (hills) and the picturesque tea growing region of Munnar, to spend a night before descending to the city of Cochin, built around a natural harbour and the centre of thriving spice trade for centuries.

After a couple of days exploring the sights of Cochin there is the opportunity to enjoy a day on a traditional rice boat, cruising along Kerala’s idyllic backwaters before ending this delightful journey with a few days to relax and unwind by the Arabian Sea, at Marari Beach.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Travel to India
Fly on an afternoon flight.

Day 2: Chennai
Arrive in Chennai where you will be met and transferred to your hotel on the coast for a two night stay. The remainder of the day is free to relax, explore the expansive stretch of beach or visit Chennai city to see Fort St George and St Mary’s Church.

Day 3: Mahabalipuram
Visit Mahabalipuram to see the ancient Shore Temple and Arjuna’s Penance, intricate stone structures dating back to the 8th Century.

Day 4: Pondicherry
Travel two hours along the Coromandel coast to the former French colony of Pondicherry for a one night stay. Enjoy a walk through the town’s ‘French Quarter’ this afternoon.

Day 5: Tanjore
Head inland to the temple town of Tanjore (6 hours) visiting the temple at Darasuram en route. Overnight in a charming heritage property.

Day 6: Chettinad
Visit the Brihadeshwara Temple, a World Heritage Site, before driving to the charming village of Chettinad (3 hours), for a two night stay in a wonderfully restored trader’s mansion, a truly authentic experience.

Day 7: Chettinad
Take a bullock cart ride through the village to see the colourful temples and mansions. Wander through the narrow streets to see traditional silversmiths and wood carvers at work, visit the colourful markets, the local diamond merchant or one of the antique shops.

Day 8: Chettinad - Madurai
Drive to Madurai (3 hours). This bustling town is home to the Shree Meenakshi Temple, one of the finest examples of Dravidian temple architecture. You may also explore the bustling markets surrounding the temple.

Day 9: Madurai - Munnar
Drive into the hills of Munnar today (4 hours), south India’s foremost tea producing region, for a one night stay. The remainder of the day is free to enjoy the spectacular views or take a walk through the tea gardens.

Day 10: Munnar - Cochin
Descend through the Western Ghats (hills) to the vibrant port city of Cochin (4 hours). Enjoy a boat ride around the harbour to see the picturesque Chinese fishing nets at sunset. Enjoy a two night stay in Cochin.

Day 11: Cochin
Visit the sights of this charming city which include the Synagogue, St. Francis’ Church and the Dutch Palace. Explore the colourful antique shops and spice trading centres on Spice Street.
Day 12: Cochin - Mararikulam
Travel by car to the backwaters, two hours’ drive from Cochin, for a day cruise on a ‘kettuvaom’, a traditional rice boat. Cruise through the backwaters and witness village life that has continued virtually unchanged for centuries. Late afternoon transfer to nearby Mararikulam for a three night stay on the coast.

Day 13 & 14: Mararikulam
Days at leisure to relax by the pool or on the beach or explore nearby villages by bicycle.

Day 15: Depart India
Transfer to Cochin airport (2 hours) early this morning for the flight home.

Tour Hotels

Classic
Chennai ................... Taj Fisherman’s Cove (5* modern beach hotel)
Pondicherry .............. Le Dupleix (4* character)
Tanjore .................... Mantra (3* character)
Chettinad .................. Saratha Vilas (3* heritage)
Madurai ..................... Heritage (3*+ character)
Munnar ...................... Windermere Estate (3* character)
Cochin ..................... Malabar House (4* boutique)
Mararikulam ............. Marari Beach (4* character)

Premium
Chennai .................... Radisson Temple Bay
Pondicherry .............. Palais de Mahé (4*+ character)
Tanjore .................... Tanjore Hl (3*+ character)
Chettinad .................. Visalam (4* heritage)
Madurai ..................... Gateway Hotel Pasumalai (4* colonial)
Munnar ...................... Windermere Estate (3* character)
Cochin ..................... Brunton Boatyard (4* character)
Mararikulam ............. Marari Beach (4* character)

Prices from £2095 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Classic accommodation.

Prices from £2215 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Premium accommodation.

Price includes accommodation breakfast daily, entrance fees, all transfers and English speaking guides for sightseeing in each destination as well as full programme as specified and transportation in private chauffeur driven air-conditioned vehicle. Price includes return scheduled flights and all airport taxes. All travelling times are estimated and can be influenced by traffic volumes, road conditions, local events and weather.

For information on hotels please refer to pages 44 and 58 - 65. Should you wish to extend your stay in India suggestions are listed on pages 32 and 33.

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
According to legend, Parasurama, a warrior sage, threw his spear into the sea and reclaimed the land of Kerala from the waters.

And what a truly beautiful land it is! Rightfully included as one of ‘50 places to see in a lifetime’ by National Geographic, this state occupies a strip along India’s southwest coast. It has been influenced by years of passing trade from all corners of the world. The Dutch Palace and Chinese fishing nets in Cochin stand testament to this colourful history, and dhows (traditional ocean going vessels commonly used in the Middle East) are still built along Kerala’s northern shores, to ply the trade routes between India and Arabia. Kerala is home to the traditional medicine of Ayurveda, and many of the hotels here have excellent Ayurveda facilities, where you have the opportunity to sample this ancient form of well-being.

This incredible destination has something for everyone: Kerala is the perfect choice for the first time visitor to India and repeaters alike, and this tour combines some of the best experiences this region has to offer. The vibrant port city of Cochin, the spice gardens of the interior highlands, rich wildlife parks, picturesque backwaters (a network of palm fringed lakes and canals) and miles of sandy beaches dotted with charming fishing villages.

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**Tour Itinerary**

**Day 1: Travel to India**
Fly on an afternoon flight.

**Day 2: Cochin**
Arrive in Cochin, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Stay for two nights. Enjoy a sunset cruise in Cochin’s busy harbour to see the Chinese fishing nets.

**Day 3: Cochin**
Visit the sights of this vibrant port city, which include the Synagogue, St. Francis’ Church and the Dutch Palace. Then walk along Spice Street to experience the antique shops and spice trading centres.

**Day 4: Cochin - Periyar**
Drive (4 hours) through the ‘Cardamom Hills’ to the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. Stay in Periyar for two nights. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore Thekkady town, with its interesting mix of local shops and restaurants.

**Day 5: Periyar**
Explore this unique nature reserve, centred around the Periyar Lake. Activities include a game viewing boat ride on the lake, an optional guided jungle walk and a visit to a spice garden.

**Day 6: Periyar - Kumarakom**
Drive (4 hours) through the hills to Kumarakom, on Kerala’s unique and picturesque backwaters, a network of lakes and canals which support a thriving community in addition to a variety of wildlife. Stay for two nights at a charming resort overlooking the water.

**Day 7: Kumarakom**
This day is at leisure. Optional activities include boat rides along the backwaters, a visit to the nearby bird sanctuary, and excursions to local churches and temples, or simply unwind by the pool.

**Day 8: Kumarakom - Mararikulam**
Drive (1 ½ hours) to Mararikulam, a quiet stretch of palm fringed beach dotted with quaint fishing villages. Your two night stay is at a characterful beach resort.

**Day 9: Mararikulam**
The day is at leisure. You may choose to take a cycle ride to nearby villages, or soak up the sun by the pool or beach.

**Day 10: Depart India**
Transfer to Cochin airport (2 hours) early this morning for your flight home.
Kerala - On the Spice Trail

10 day, 9 night tour

Tour Hotels

**Classic**
- Cochin: Brunton Boatyard (4* colonial style)
- Periyar: Spice Village (4* character)
- Kumarakom: Coconut Lagoon (4* heritage)
- Mararikulam: Marari Beach (4* character)

**Premium**
- Cochin: Vivanta by Taj Malabar (5* modern)
- Periyar: Spice Village (4* character)
- Kumarakom: Kumarakom Lake Resort (5* character)
- Mararikulam: Marari Beach (4* character)

Prices from £1425 per person  
(Based on two persons sharing) in Classic accommodation.

Prices from £1565 per person  
(Based on two persons sharing) in Premium accommodation.

Price includes accommodation breakfast daily, entrance fees, all transfers and English speaking guides for sightseeing in each destination as well as full programme as specified and transportation in private chauffeur driven air-conditioned vehicle. Price includes return scheduled flights and all airport taxes. All travelling times are estimated and can be influenced by traffic volumes, road conditions, local events and weather.

For information on hotels please refer to pages 44, 45 and 58 - 65. Should you wish to extend your stay in India suggestions are listed on pages 32 and 33.

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
Overlooking the Gateway of India, The Taj Mahal Palace is Mumbai’s first harbour landmark and the site of the first licensed bar in the city. Opulent guest rooms and suites are the perfect blend of old-world elegance, modern convenience and Taj’s trademark hospitality. The rooms and suites are attractively decorated with antiques and artwork and the Tower Wing offers a mix of European style and Indian elegance.

Guests can dine at Wasabi by Morimoto and enjoy classic Japanese dishes with innovative contemporary twists or indulge in contemporary Indian cuisine with live cooking stations, innovative cocktails and local Bombay Tiffins at Masala Kraft. Guests are welcome to relax at the outdoor swimming pool surround by lush tropical gardens, a welcome relief from the bustling city.

At a glance

Location: Located in close proximity to Gateway of India.
Transfer time: Approximately 1 hour 30 minutes from Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport.
Rooms/suites: 604.
Restaurants/bars: 10.
Water Activities: Outdoor swimming pool and steam room.
Land Activities: Gym and Yoga (by appointment).
Spa/Beauty Services: The Taj Salon & Jiva Spa.
Board basis: Bed and Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.
Udaipur’s 250-year old Taj Lake Palace offers guests a unique blend of serenity and opulence. The exquisite white marble palace, which appears to float on the still waters of Lake Pichola was built in the 18th century on a natural foundation of four acres of rock. All rooms and suites offer views over the lake and the Aravalli Mountains in the distance.

A traditional ambience and views of the lily pond set the tone at Neel Kamal. This fine-dining restaurant serves authentic flavours of India. Enjoy European cuisine at Bhairo, a romantic rooftop restaurant. Relax by the swimming pool and enjoy the peaceful setting of the lake or enjoy luxurious pampering in the Spa where expert therapists will soothe away tensions and strains.

At a glance

**Location:** In the middle of Lake Pichola, 1 kilometre from the city centre.

**Transfer time:** Approximately 40 minutes from Udaipur airport and a 10 minute boat ride.

**Rooms/suites:** 83.

**Restaurants/bars:** 4.

**Water activities:** Swimming pool, boat trips on the lake.

**Land activities:** Yoga.

**Star rating:** ★★★★★ Deluxe.
This tour brings together an eclectic mix of unforgettable authentic experiences. Enjoy guided walks to meet the local tribespeople of Wayanad and explore Nagarhole National Park in search of the tiger.

Sip fresh tea made from the leaves of local tea plantations while in Coonoor, take in the local history with a visit to the Dutch Palace and Synagogue and watch the local fishermen lower the famous Chinese nets in the port city of Cochin, and relax along the secluded coastline at Mararikulam.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Travel to India
Fly to Calicut on an overnight flight.

Day 2: Calicut
Arrive in Calicut and transfer to the hotel where you have the remainder of the day at leisure. Unwind by the poolside, or perhaps venture out for a walk along the banks of the Chaliyar River.

Day 3: Calicut – Tellicherry
After breakfast, enjoy a leisurely 2 hour drive to Tellicherry. Stay at Ayisha Manzil, a charming homestay, for 2 nights in the care of Mr and Mrs Moosa who belong to the Mappila Malabar community of spice traders. Ayisha Manzil is a colonial mansion set on a small hill overlooking the Arabian Sea with stunning views of the pristine palm-fringed beach. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore the area.

Day 4: Tellicherry
Enjoy a relaxing breakfast before heading off to the local fish market with Mr Moosa to see the catch of the day. You have the opportunity to buy some seafood to cook later in the day. This afternoon, enjoy a cooking lesson with Mrs Moosa, where you will be introduced to an exotic array of local spices and other ingredients.

Day 5: Tellicherry – Wayanad
After breakfast, depart by road for Wayanad. Set in the heart of a colonial plantation, surrounded by the tropical rainforests of Wayanad, your accommodation for the next two nights relives the essence of a bygone era. In a serene, intimate location nestled amongst acres of plantations, lakes and forests, this property reflects the rhythms of an ancient land.

Day 6: Wayanad
After breakfast, enjoy a guided visit to one of the local tribal villages that this area is famous for. The remainder of the day is free to enjoy your pristine surroundings.

Day 7: Wayanad – Nagarhole
After breakfast drive to Nagarhole National Park. The park stretches over 643 square kilometres and is separated from Bandipur by the Kabini Reservoir. Nagarhole has a vast, rich forest, interspersed by small streams, valleys, and waterfalls, and home to a healthy, and growing, tiger population. Elephant and Indian bison also abound in this rich wildlife reserve, along with deer and a wide variety of bird species.

Day 8: Nagarhole
Enjoy morning and afternoon game drives, with the opportunity to observe the vibrant local wildlife.

Day 9: Nagarhole – Coonoor
An early morning start for the scenic 4 hour drive to Ooty Railway Station to board the ‘Toy Train’ to Coonoor. The Nilgiri Mountain Railway is one of the oldest mountain railways in India. Covering a distance of 26 miles winding through the mountains, with 16 tunnels and 250 bridges, construction on the railway began in 1845 and was completed in 1908. Your journey from Ooty to Coonoor gives you a sample of this magnificent journey, and your driver will meet you in Coonoor and drive you to your hotel.

Day 10: Coonoor
After breakfast enjoy a 4 hour guided walk to experience the sights and sounds of Coonoor, including tea and spice gardens, natural forests and a tribal village. The afternoon is at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.
Day 11: Coonoor – Cochin
After breakfast begin the 7 hour drive to Cochin, with several photo opportunities and breaks en route.
Meals included: Breakfast.

Day 12: Cochin
This morning, enjoy a guided tour of the historical port city of Cochin. The afternoon is free to relax by the pool or explore more of the city on your own. This evening, an unforgettable experience awaits: visit a local family and help them prepare a traditional evening meal, before enjoying the meal with them.
Meals included: Breakfast and Dinner.

Day 13: Cochin – Mararikulam
Drive to Mararikulam (2 hours) for a relaxing two night stay at a charming seaside resort.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 14: Mararikulam
The day is at leisure to enjoy the beach and pool, or perhaps explore the nearby villages by bicycle.
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 15: Depart India
Transfer to Cochin Airport (2 hours) for your flight home.
Meals included: Breakfast.

Tour Hotels
Calicut ................................Kadavu Resort (4* cottage style)
Tellicherry ..........................Ayisha Manzil (simple homestay)
Wayanad ...........................Pepper Trail (4* coffee & spice plantation)
Nagarhole .........................Kaav Safari Lodge (4* boutique)
Coonoor ............................The Gateway Hotel, Coonoor (4* heritage)
Cochin .............................Secret Garden (4* heritage)
Mararikulam .....................Marai Beach Resort (5* villa style)

Prices from £3085 per person
(Based on two persons sharing).
Price includes accommodation breakfast daily, entrance fees, all transfers and English speaking guides for sightseeing in each destination as well as full programme as specified and transportation in private chauffeur driven air-conditioned vehicle. Price includes return scheduled flights and all airport taxes. All travelling times are estimated and can be influenced by traffic volumes, road conditions, local events and weather.

For information on hotels please refer to pages 58 - 65. Should you wish to extend your stay in India suggestions are listed on pages 32 and 33.

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
Maharajas’ Express
Rail Journey - Indian Panorama
12 day, 11 night tour

This luxurious journey takes in some truly stunning and drastically contrasting experiences, including India’s vibrant capital, Delhi, the bustling bazaars of Jaipur and Ranthambore’s spectacular wildlife.

This impressive list would not be complete without a visit to Agra to see the timeless monument to love, the Taj Mahal, before continuing to the royal city of Gwalior. Visit the temples of Khajuraho, the sacred and ancient city of Varanasi, and the ‘City of Nawabs’ Lucknow, before returning to Delhi. The journey makes the most of time in India, travelling in luxury at night while visiting incredible sights during the day.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Travel to India
Fly on an overnight flight to Delhi.

Day 2: Delhi
Arrive Delhi mid-morning and be transferred to your hotel, The Imperial, for a two night stay. The afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the hotel’s excellent facilities or perhaps explore the cafés and shops at Connaught Place, Delhi’s premier shopping district.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3: Delhi
Visit the sights of colourful Old Delhi this morning including the Jama Masjid, India’s largest mosque, Rajghat, the resting place of Mahatma Gandhi and the bustling bazaars at Chandhi Chowk. Continue with a tour of New Delhi in the afternoon to see the Qutb Minar, the elaborate tomb of the Mughal Emperor Humayun, India Gate and a drive along the tree-lined avenues past the colonial government buildings designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4: Delhi - Jaipur
The morning is at leisure. Transfer to the railway station in the afternoon where a traditional welcome awaits guests at the Maharajas’ Express. Begin an epic rail journey through the highlights of India.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 5: Jaipur
Arrive in Jaipur, the ‘Pink City’, this morning. Your experience of this historical city begins with a visit to the imposing hilltop Amber Fort, followed by an exhibition elephant polo match and a lavish lunch. The remainder of the day is at leisure with the option to visit the City Palace and Jantar Mantar Observatory, play a round of golf, or be pampered with a spa session. Return to the train for the overnight journey to Ranthambore.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 6: Ranthambore
The train pulls into Ranthambore as you enjoy breakfast on board. Take a jeep safari in this national park, home to a healthy tiger population, before returning to the train for lunch during the short journey to Fatehpur Sikri. Enjoy a tour of this ‘deserted’ sandstone city. Overnight on board the train.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 7: Agra
Arrive in Agra early this morning and enjoy a visit to the stunning Taj Mahal followed by a champagne breakfast overlooking this remarkable structure. Return to the train and continue the journey towards Gwalior. After lunch at the Usha Kiran Palace, enjoy a tour of this regal city visiting the Gwalior Fort and Jai Vilas Museum. High tea will be served at the Jai Vilas Palace before returning to the train to continue the journey.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 8: Orchha and Khajuraho
Visit the tranquil site of Orchha, dotted with picturesque temples and chhatris before proceeding on to Khajuraho. Visit the Chandelas’ temples, famous for their erotic carvings. Return to the train for dinner and the overnight journey to the truly awe-inspiring city of Varanasi.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 9: Varanasi
Arrive in Varanasi, one of the oldest living cities in the world and a sacred pilgrimage centre for Hindus and Buddhists alike. In the morning, visit Sarnath, the site of Buddha’s first sermon and enjoy a boat ride on the holy River Ganges in the afternoon. Overnight on the train.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
Day 10: Lucknow
Arrive in the ‘City of Nawabs’, Lucknow this morning. Visit the city’s sights including the Rumi Darwaza and Bada Imambara and experience the busy bazaars before returning to the train for lunch. Lucknow is famous for its lavish and impeccable cuisine and in the evening, return to the city to experience a grand ‘Nawabi’ meal. Return to the train for the final leg of the journey to Delhi.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 11: Delhi
Arrive in Delhi this morning and after disembarking you will be escorted to The Imperial for the final night in India. The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax by the pool or maybe catch up on some last minute shopping.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 12: Depart India
Morning transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Meals included: Breakfast

Prices from £6465 per person
(Based on two persons sharing).

The journey featured is one of several offered by Maharajas’ Express, please contact our reservations specialists for details of other tours.

Price includes accommodation as specified in itinerary, meals as stated, entrance fees, all transfers, full programme as specified and transportation in an air-conditioned coach with an English-speaking guide. Price includes return scheduled flights and all airport taxes. All travelling times are estimated and can be influenced by traffic volumes, road conditions, local events and weather.

For information on hotels please refer to pages 58 - 65. Should you wish to extend your stay in India suggestions are listed on pages 32 and 33.

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
Embark on a voyage across magnificent India and discover the soul of this unique country on board the elegant Deccan Odyssey.

The Indian Odyssey tour is an 8 day/7 night journey through some of north and west India’s most colourful and popular destinations. Highlights include Agra, Jaipur, Udaipur, a wildlife safari at the Ranthambore National Park and, of course, legendary Indian hospitality.

If Only… recommends including at least 1 night pre and post-tour accommodation to fully enjoy the sights and sounds of Delhi and Mumbai (not included in price shown).

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Delhi
Enjoy a traditional welcome ceremony before checking-in and boarding the luxurious Deccan Odyssey. Sip on a welcome cocktail as the train departs from its first destination: Sawai Madhopur.

Meals included: Dinner

Day 2: Sawai Madhopur
Ranthambore is known for being home to many tigers and guests can join a wildlife safari in the national park, where, with a bit of luck, you just might spot a tiger. This was once the private hunting ground of the rulers of Jaipur. Arrive back on the train for an overnight journey to Agra.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 3: Agra
After breakfast on-board, enjoy a city tour of Agra. Explore the enchanting Taj Mahal – one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Itmad-ud-Daulah Tomb and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Agra Fort. Overnight journey to Jaipur.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 4: Jaipur
Jaipur – the vibrant ‘Pink City’ houses some amazing palaces, forts and monuments. The mesmerising bazaars are a treasure trove of Indian apparel, jewellery, handicrafts and much more. This evening guests will enjoy a gala dinner at a special venue before journeying overnight to Jodhpur.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 5: Jodhpur
The ‘Blue City’, Jodhpur, awaits after a tasty on-board breakfast. Spend the morning souvenir shopping at the Old Market before visiting the magnificent Mehrangarh Fort in the afternoon – 400ft above the city. Board the train for an overnight journey to Udaipur.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 6: Udaipur
Start the day in Udaipur, one of India’s most romantic cities, with a sightseeing tour of the city. Visit the City Palace and Fateh Prakash Palace, which houses the world’s single largest private collection of crystal, before enjoying a leisurely stroll through the picturesque old city streets.

Before boarding for the overnight journey to Vadodara, guests will spend the evening on a boat ride on the placid waters of Lake Pichola.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 7: Vadodara
Arrive in Vadodara, the city of the Gaekwads. After breakfast, indulge in some sightseeing of popular attractions including the beautiful Jama Masjid, the World Heritage Site of Pavagadh Archaeological Park and the Maharaja Fateh Singh Museum.

A folk dance performance and delicious dinner at the Laxmi Vilas Palace is the perfect ending to the Deccan Odyssey Experience.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 8: Mumbai
Upon arrival in Mumbai, complete the check-out formalities before disembarking.

Meals included: Breakfast

Prices from £6465 per person
(Based on two persons sharing).

The journey featured is one of several offered by Deccan Odyssey. Please contact our reservations specialists for details of other tours.

Price includes accommodation as specified in itinerary, meals as stated, entrance fees, all transfers, full programme as specified and transportation in an air-conditioned coach with an English-speaking guide. Price includes return scheduled flights and all airport taxes. All travelling times are estimated and can be influenced by traffic volumes, road conditions, local events and weather.

Should you wish to extend your stay in India suggestions are listed on pages 32 and 33. For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
The Imperial
New Delhi

The contemporary yet colonial architecture of the majestic Imperial epitomises the grandeur of this impressive hotel. The 235 spacious and luxurious rooms have hosted many famous names with many more dining in the nine unique bars and restaurants, each with its own story to tell. The hotels also provides a swimming pool, gymnasium and spa.

Taj Mahal
New Delhi

Occupying one of the most prestigious addresses in Delhi, amongst broad tree lined boulevards, the Taj Mahal Delhi has a magnificent reputation. The 294 rooms and suites are luxuriously appointed. Dining is exquisite, with several excellent restaurants available. The hotel successfully mixes old world grace and elegance with modern amenities.

The Claridges New Delhi
New Delhi

The Claridges New Delhi is a historical landmark; a perfect blend of old world elegance and contemporary luxury warmly embracing classic architecture with expansive lawns, swimming pool, sun decks, cabanas and loungers – an oasis, yet within easy reach of the cultural heart of the city.

The Oberoi
New Delhi

Centrally located, The Oberoi is ideal for exploring this vibrant city. Most of the well appointed guestrooms offer views of the Delhi Golf Course or Humayun’s Tomb whilst the award winning Oriental rooftop restaurant provides additional spectacular views.

Shangri-La’s Eros Hotel
New Delhi

Located in central Connaught Place, this modern hotel offers refuge from the hustle and bustle of New Delhi. 320 rooms and suites are complimented by 5 restaurants and bars. After a day sightseeing, enjoy a dip in the pool, energise at the gym or pamper at the Chi Spa.

Colonels Retreat
New Delhi

A boutique hotel tucked into South Delhi’s Defence Colony, offering 6 individual guest rooms. All rooms have air conditioning, TV, refrigerator and Wi-Fi. Breakfast treats include fresh artisan bread alongside home-made jams.

Maidens
Old Delhi

One of the oldest hotels in Delhi, Maidens offers charm and elegance combined with colonial architecture. The 54 spacious guestrooms are airy and well appointed. Ideally located for local shopping and sightseeing, the lush gardens provide protection from the hustle and bustle of the city and the swimming pool offers the chance to relax.

Courtyard Marriott Agra
Agra

Offering a pool, gym, spa and some of the largest rooms in Agra, the Marriott is a perfect base to discover the delights of the city. Choose from 4 restaurants, cafes and bars, before retiring to luxury bedded rooms featuring high speed internet and flat screen TV’s.

Trident
Agra

Situated just 1.5km from the Taj Mahal, the Trident provides easy access to the city’s main attraction. Set in Mughal style gardens the hotel offers a swimming pool, fitness centre and children’s club. There are 135 comfortable rooms and suites and an informal restaurant serves Indian and Continental fare.
Samode Haveli
Jaipur

This former Royal family manor house exudes a unique charm. The 39 rooms and suites are richly decorated and each has its own character. Dine in the restaurant - the former dining hall - which has to be believed. Lounge on day beds by the pool, a retreat in this beautiful and overwhelming city.

Ranthambore Kothi
Ranthambore

Surrounded by lush forest and edged by a soothing lake, Kothi offers 28 well-appointed rooms housed in themed British Bungalows. A restaurant and bar are on site and the outdoor pool is a perfect place to relax when not exploring the National Park.

Khem Vilas
Ranthambore

Set in 30 acres of landscaped gardens and woodland, Khem Vilas offer a selection of luxury tents, rooms and cottages and is your base for game drives and nature walks in the surrounding forest. Out of respect for nature, all the food at Khem Vilas is vegetarian.

Dev Vilas
Ranthambore

Built in Indo-Saracenic style, eco-friendly Dev Vilas is set around a central courtyard and offers 21 individually decorated suites providing unique style and ambience. This is an ideal base to explore Ranthambore National Park with its abundant wildlife, flora and fauna.

Sher Bagh
Ranthambore

This luxury tented camp, evocative of the decadent 1920’s, provides a fantastic opportunity to track game in Ranthambore National Park. Your stay will be enhanced by passionate, expert guides imparting their vast knowledge and using their experience to track tigers and leopards, amongst other wildlife. Expertly prepared cuisine, a spa and swimming pool add to the experience.

Rambagh Palace
Jaipur

Known as the Jewel of Jaipur, this elaborate palace, built in 1835, now houses 78 stunningly restored luxury rooms and suites, which were once the chambers of the former Maharaja. Dine in one of the 3 restaurants or 2 bars or relax by the pool after a busy day sightseeing.

Radisson Blu
Agra

This opulent hotel is literally a stone’s throw away from one of the 7 Wonders of the World, the Taj Mahal. The plush rooms and suites of this modern hotel are a striking contrast to its historical setting making it an ideal choice for international travellers.

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Chhatra Sagar
Nimaj

Situated on a reservoir, this peaceful camp is ideal for bird watchers and those looking for a quiet escape. The 13 deluxe tents are well appointed and overlook the lake, ideal for watching the sunset with a sundowner. Dining is often by campfire, under the stars, with authentic home cooking provided.

RAAS
Jodhpur

This boutique hotel is ideally located for exploring the main sights of Mehrangarh’s Victory Palace and Gate and the Clock Tower. The 39 rooms and suites are contemporary in style with modern amenities and most overlook Mehrangarh Fort. Both restaurants offer Indian and International cuisine and there is a swimming pool and spa in which to relax.

Mihir Garh
Luni

This nine suite boutique hotel, built in the style of a fort, offers unparalleled luxury, surrounded by rugged landscape. Uniquely designed spacious suites, some with private pool offer modern amenities in a luxurious setting. The hotel offers a plethora of activities including a popular village safari, horse riding or the opportunity to indulge in the hotel spa.

Shahpura Bagh
Shahpura

Become a friend of the family at this majestic homestay. Dine by moonlight on home cooked gourmet cuisine after a day exploring the villages, forts and temples of the Shahpura area, also a bird lover’s paradise. Ten spacious rooms, elegantly furnished with family antiques provide a quiet sanctuary.

Fateh Prakash Palace
Udaipur

Located on the eastern shores of the picturesque Lake Pichola, the palace seems to have floated straight out of a fairytale. The history-soaked interiors, dotted with miniature paintings, portraits, royal artefacts and the armory of the Mewar dynasty transport guests to legendary times. 65 rooms and suites are on hand to accommodate.

Oberoi Udai Vilas
Udaipur

Situated on the banks of Lake Pichola, this magnificent building evokes a sense of a bygone era. The 82 palatial guestrooms are richly furnished and dining becomes an experience in itself with rich authentic cuisine. Indulge in a romantic boat ride on the enchanting lake or embark on a journey of wellness enhancement.

Trident
Udaipur

Situated on the banks of Lake Pichola, the Trident offers a comfortable base from which to explore the palaces, lakes and bazaars of the city. The 137 rooms and suites are decorated in a neutral style, and there is a pool and fitness centre. Dine on the terrace, overlooking the lake on Western, Asian and Indian delicacies.

The Serai
Jaisalmer

Escape into the Rajasthani wilderness at this 21 luxury tent retreat. Take a camel or 4x4 safari into the great Thar desert or visit the intriguing city of Jaisalmer with its ancient sights before dining under the stars, revelling in the silence as you relax by the pool or enjoy a massage in the spa.

Nadesar Palace
Varanasi

Set amidst verdant gardens, mango orchards, marigold and jasmine fields, Nadesar Palace is a haven of peace and tranquility, situated in this ancient holy city. The 10 spacious rooms and suites offer opulent accommodation in this former Maharaja’s residence, and have hosted many notable guests in more recent years.
**The Gateway Hotel Ganges**
*Varanasi*

An oasis of peace and tranquillity in a crowded city, The Gateway is located 6km from the city centre. 130 rooms and suites offer cool and calm respite from the day’s experiences. Restaurants provide superb fresh regional dishes or international fare. Facilities include a swimming pool, fitness centre and spa.

**Suryauday Haveli**
*Varanasi*

Set above the banks of The Ganges, the Suryauday Haveli Varanasi is an oasis from the city itself. Set around a courtyard, the unique charm of the hotel makes it an ideal location to escape the hustle and bustle of Varanasi, one of Hinduism’s seven holy cities.

**Lalit Temple View**
*Khajuraho*

Situated within minutes of the world heritage site of the Western Group of the Khajuraho Temples, Lalit Temple View is also close to the airport and train station. This luxury boutique hotel offers 47 well appointed guestrooms overlooking the Temples or the lush gardens. There is also a swimming pool and a restaurant.

**Sarai at Toria**
*Panna*

With a riverside location perfect for boat trips or fishing, the family-run Sarai at Toria is ideally situated to explore the culturally rich locale. This rural, luxurious eco-conscious retreat, offers six ‘rustic on the outside, elegant on the inside’ cottages and even the dining area provides outstanding views of the countryside.

**Mahua Kothi Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge**
*Bandhavgarh*

Look out for tiger, leopard, sambhar and chital on morning and afternoon 4x4 game drives. Take a refreshing dip in the pool followed by afternoon tea before embarking on your second adventure of the day. Enjoy a restful sleep in one of the 12 charming bungalows, each with their own courtyard.

**Monsoon Forest**
*Bandhavgarh*

With views of Bandhavgarh Fort, Monsoon Forest offers 4X4 or elephant safaris and bird watching walks with friendly guides. Ideal for tiger spotting, guests may also catch sight of sloth bear, leopard, chital or barking deer. There are 6 luxury tents and 7 eco lodges, all well-equipped.

**Samode Safari Lodge**
*Bandhavgarh*

Inspired by South Africa, this lodge is the ideal base from which to explore the nearby Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. Resident expert naturalists will share their knowledge and arrange jeep or elephant safaris, with the opportunity to catch a glimpse of tiger, bear, wolf and cheetal. There are 12 luxurious rooms, gourmet dining, swimming pool and a spa.

**Singinawa Jungle Lodge**
*Kanha*

Located on the edge of Kanha National Park, this eco-conscious safari lodge offers bird and nature walks as well as twice daily visits to the national park in customised 4x4s, affording every opportunity to view tigers. With 12 charming cottages offering modern amenities, swimming pool and spa, nothing is overlooked.

**Jamtara Wilderness Camp**
*Pench*

Situated in the Village of Jamtara, near Pench National Park, Jamtara Wilderness Camp is a luxury tented property in the heart of rural Pench. Surrounded by tall Arjuna Trees and an ancient Banyan rooted on a dry riverbed, each of the 10 tented rooms overlooks the forest, the perfect background to this jungle experience.
Oberoi Cecil
Shimla

This grand heritage hotel is nestled in the forests of the Himalayas at 7000 feet. Renovations replicate the original colonial grandeur of this former hill station. The 75 guestrooms and suites are elegantly furnished. Facilities include swimming pool, fitness centre, spa and children’s activity centre and of course, spectacular views.

Forsyth Lodge
Satpura

Accessed by boat across the Tawa Dam, the eco-conscious Forsyth Lodge offers twelve simply styled, airy cottages and a swimming pool. Track tiger, leopard, sloth bear, hyena and deer in Satpura Tiger Reserve by 4X4 or on foot, accompanied by an expert naturalist. Satpura is also a bird lover’s paradise.

Oberoi Grand
Kolkata

Centrally located, the Oberoi Grand blends neo-classical and colonial architecture. The 209 rooms and suites are classically styled and offer modern amenities. All day dining is available in a bright and airy setting and an authentic Thai restaurant is also available. Facilities include a swimming pool, fitness centre and spa.

Glenburn Tea Estate
Darjeeling

With a plethora of activities including hiking, fishing, rafting, cookery classes, massage and ‘The Tea Experience’ there is always something to do at this family run tea plantation. There are 8 charming and unique suites located within two bungalows and many of the ingredients for the delicious cuisine are grown in the kitchen gardens.

Windamere Hotel
Darjeeling

This Colonial hotel was originally built as a boarding house to accommodate British tea planters. Proud of being the original “Heritage House of the Himalayas” it is perfectly situated on Observatory Hill, a Darjeeling landmark.

Taj Swarna, Amritsar
Amritsar

The Taj Swarna embodies the best of Punjab’s iconic history, art and culture. Fusing modern design with traditional elegance, Taj Swarna is a stylish, contemporary world class hotel. The hotel features spacious rooms, an array of dining options, Health Club, Jiva Spa and Salon and is close to the main shopping area of the city.

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The Oberoi
Mumbai

Located on the bay along Marine Drive, at Nariman Point, the Oberoi provides contemporary style and luxury. The 287 chic rooms and suites are well equipped with modern technology and many overlook the ocean. Relaxed, sophisticated dining is available at several restaurants within the hotel and a pool and spa are also available.

Trident Nairman Point
Mumbai

This 555 room hotel affords spectacular views of the 3km long Marine Drive, a coastal road of south Mumbai. Guestrooms are well equipped and hotel facilities include several restaurants, a spa, swimming pool and fitness centre. The hotel provides easy access to the city centre.
Falaknuma Palace
Hyderabad

The excessive opulence of this former Nizam’s palace cannot be overstated. The Baroque style building was built from Italian marble and showcases numerous priceless pieces of art and artefacts. The 60 rooms and suites are richly and sumptuously appointed. Dine like royalty on a fusion of traditional regal and modern cuisine.

Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel
Mysore

Considered one of the best hotels in the city, the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel Mysore offers city-centre convenience and gorgeous views of the Chamundi Hills. Featuring soothing tones and modern décor, rooms and suites combine style with comfort. Restaurant, gym, spa and pool are all on site.

Orange County
Hampi

This all suite luxury hotel is the perfect base to discover the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hampi, just 4kms away. 2 restaurants and a pool are at hand if you can bear to leave your stunningly appointed suite, of which the highest category boasts its own private pool.

KAAV Safari Lodge
Nagarhole

Along the edge of the Nagarhole wildlife sanctuary lies KAAV - a luxury safari lodge steeped in the indulgent solitude of Kabini’s forest. Ensnconed in the care of this luxury resort, nature and its myriad facets beckon guests into the thriving jungle.

Radisson Blu Resort
Temple Bay
Mamallapuram, Chennai

This beachside hotel offers the perfect escape after a day spent exploring the nearby sights. The 144 chalets, villas and suites are comfortable, well equipped and offer views of the Bay of Bengal, Shore Temple or meandering swimming pool. Facilities include mini golf, wellness centre, spa, one restaurant, bar and café.

Vivanta by Taj - Fisherman’s Cove
Chennai

Situated on the ramparts of an old Dutch fort, this quaint beach resort edges the Bay of Bengal. The 128 rooms and cottages are well appointed and a fitness centre, tennis, pool and watersports are available. Warm hospitality and exotic international flavours greet you in the restaurants which also offer fantastic views.

Vivanta by Taj - Connemara
Chennai

Centrally located, the art-deco style Vivanta by Taj Connemara offers a graceful haven at the end of a day spent exploring. The 148 rooms and suites are stylishly decorated, many offering direct access to the swimming pool. There are several restaurants providing imaginative fusion cuisine with which to tantalise the tastebuds.

The Leela
Chennai

This sea-facing modern palace hotel built on six acres provides panoramic views of the Bay of Bengal. Close to the Chennai business district it offers a truly luxurious experience, the opulent interiors of the hotel providing an unforgettable experience. A milieu of exotic dining options, Spa by ESPA and well equipped gym complete the offering.

Maison Perumal
Pondicherry

India meets France in this charming hotel where service is discrete and hospitality gracious. This elegant former Tamil home provides 10 elegant rooms, simply decorated using local materials. The hotel is ideally placed for exploring this unique area and offers a calming oasis from the bustle of the city.
The Windermere Estate
Munnar
This cardamom, tea and coffee plantation is ideal for nature lovers and walkers and the cool climate will provide welcome respite. Rest in one of the 15 comfortable, simply furnished rooms, recharge on the wholesome food before enjoying a walk in nature, spotting local flora and fauna amongst the sweeping verdant landscape.

Spice Village
Periyar
Modelled on a tribal mountain village this forest resort provides the opportunity to truly get away from it all. The 52 cottages are minimally furnished but comfortable. This is the perfect place to escape in to the wilderness and is ideal for bird watching and trekking and the Periyar Tiger Reserve is nearby.

Purity at Lake Vembanad
Vembanad Lake
Overlooking Lake Vembanad, this boutique backwater retreat is perfect for unwinding and rejuvenating. There are ample things to see and do in the area, or simply relax by the pool or at the spa. The six guestrooms and suites are light and airy and decorated with local art.

Palais de Mahe
Pondicherry
Opened in December 2012, this French Colonial building, just steps from the promenade evokes a sense of low key grandeur with its ochre colonnades and airy courtyard. French sophistication abounds, from the elegant guestrooms to the rooftop restaurant serving quality cuisine. A perfect choice for discovering the delights of this charming town.

Le Dupleix
Pondicherry
Fusing traditional architecture with modern comforts, this restored former residence of the French Mayor of Pondicherry is located close to the ocean, shopping area and park. The 14 individually designed rooms and suites are elegantly furnished. Experience superlative attention to detail in the restaurant which serves excellent Indian, Continental and French cuisine.

Visalam
Chettinad
Life slows down by several paces at Visalam. This heritage property, formerly owned by a merchant prince and sympathetically renovated has a calming, soothing ambience. Modern amenities mix with period features in the 15 comfortable rooms whilst meal times become banquets. An ideal base from which to explore the rich culture of this beautiful area.

Mantra Veppathur
Tanjore
Mantra is perfect for bird lovers (there are 64 different species in the area) and for those looking to embark on a journey of wellness with meditation, delicious wholesome food, ayurvedic spa treatments and yoga. The 26 externally rustic cottages and bungalows have very comfortable interiors. A true retreat.

Heritage Madurai
Madurai
Set within 17 acres, and ideally located for exploring the local town and temples, Heritage Madurai offers 72 comfortable rooms and villas. Contemporary Indian and international cuisine is created by skilful chefs, using local produce. At the end of a busy day cool off in the swimming pool or find relaxation in the spa.

The Gateway Hotel
Pasumalai
Madurai
This colonial hotel, perched on Pasumalasi Hill, affords fantastic views of the Temple City and Kodai Hills. There are 63 comfortable chalet style rooms, tennis, swimming pool, fitness centre and an Ayurveda centre available. Tasty regional or International dishes are prepared in the restaurant.

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Kumarakom Lake Resort is situated within vast, lush gardens on the banks of Lake Vembanad, within the Kerala backwaters. The 59 luxurious, spacious rooms, villas and suites are well equipped with modern amenities and there is a plethora of activities to keep guests of all ages busy.

Marari Beach Resort provides the perfect opportunity to escape from it all. Lounging, lazing and sauntering are all encouraged or, there is a pool, yoga and tennis court if you really must be active. The 62 villas are simply but elegantly furnished and the restaurant offers delicious home grown produce and fresh fish.

Ideally located for the main sights of St Francis Church and the fishing nets, this boutique heritage hotel fuses traditional and contemporary design. A gourmet restaurant, 17 uniquely designed rooms and suites with modern amenities and eye-catching art, swimming pool and Ayurvedic spa treatments combine to provide the perfect retreat.

Built on a cliff top overlooking lush greenery, this resort with 183 rooms/suites enjoys a panoramic view of the Kovalam coastline. Having an array of specialty restaurants and lounges, it is also renowned for its traditional Ayurvedic treatments. Two stunning infinity pools overlook the Arabian sea. The Club at The Leela offers a host of personalised services.

A true oasis of green, Vivanta by Taj - Kovalam overlooks the sea and Keralan backwaters. There are 59 thatched roof hillside cottages with balcony. Activities include a swimming pool, fitness centre, cooking classes and spa treatments. Imaginative Indian, seafood and International cuisine is served in the restaurants.

Turtle on the Beach is a short walk from a golden beach, with some rooms overlooking the Arabian Sea. Here guests can relax in the hotel’s minimalist style architecture, designed to complement Kovalam’s natural beauty. Facilities include a pool, fitness centre, Ayurveda spa, Jacuzzi and library.

Dream, Invigorate, Indulge, Discover. This is the ethos of this charming retreat offering 31 cottages which fuse modern comfort with traditional charm. Dream as you relax and watch spectacular sunsets. Invigorate with a tailor-made wellness package. Indulge in expertly prepared, delicious cuisine. Discover your essence.

Offering access to both the beach and backwaters, Taj Bekal is a delightful, relatively undiscovered hotel. The 71 rooms and suites, some with private plunge pools, offer spacious, stylish accommodation. A spa, fitness centre, pool and yoga are available whilst imaginative Keralan and International cuisine is also provided.

Relax and unwind at this luxury beach resort, a true hidden gem. The 18 cottages offer privacy and seclusion, surrounded by locally made furniture and modern comforts. Meals are expertly prepared using fresh locally caught fish and local vegetables. There is a spa in which to unwind and rejuvenate.
Wildflower Hall
Shimla, India

Set in 22 acres of virgin woods of pine and cedar, Wildflower Hall, part of Oberoi Hotels & Resorts group and the former residence of Lord Kitchener, has been rebuilt to a new magnificence. Each guestroom is appointed with Burmese teak floors, hand-knotted rugs and rich furnishings, reflecting the colonial heritage of the hotel. All rooms offer spectacular views and modern amenities including 24 hour butler service.

The Restaurant offers Pan Asian and Continental dishes with magnificent views of the Greater Himalayas. Lutyens Hall offers speciality Indian cuisine in an intimate setting overlooking the gardens. Wildflower Hall offers exclusive massage, yoga and Ayurvedic treatments at bespoke locations around the hotel and grounds.

At a glance
Location: Situated at 8,250 feet in the magnificent Himalayas.
Transfer time: Approximately 90 minutes from Shimla airport.
Rooms/suites: 85.
Restaurants/bars: 3.
Water Activities: Swimming Pool.
Land Activities: Gym, outdoor tennis court, yoga (summer months, ice rink in winter).
Spa/Beauty Services: Spa.
Children: Not suitable for children under 10 years.
Board basis: Bed and Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.
Barefoot at Havelock

The Andaman Islands, India

For those seeking a Robinson Crusoe experience, Barefoot at Havelock is waiting to be discovered. This exclusive eco-resort can be found in India’s secret paradise, the Andaman Islands amidst pristine tropical forests. Spacious and beautifully designed tents, cottages and villas nestling within 7 acres of tropical foliage are simply designed and have large inviting beds, balconies, terraces or sit-out areas, and spacious bathrooms.

The Restaurant serves an exciting mix of Indian, Thai and Italian dishes, while seafood features prominently on the menu. Pristine dive spots and enchanting fish life have ensured that the Andamans are now considered one of the world’s hot diving spots. Barefoot Scuba offers instruction and equipment for every level of diver.

At a glance

**Location:** Havelock Island in The Andaman Islands, an archipelago in the Bay of Bengal.

**Transfer time:** Enjoy a 2 hour flight to Port Blair from Chennai or Kolkata, short ferry ride from Port Blair to Havelock and scenic car transfer to the resort.

**Rooms/suites:** 25.

**Restaurants/bars:** 2.

**Water activities:** Kayaking, snorkelling, diving, boat trips and fishing.

**Land activities:** Bird watching, hiking, trekking and yoga.

**Spa/Beauty Services:** Spa.

**Board basis:** Bed and Breakfast.

**Star rating:** ★★★

India 67
A glimpse of Goa

Goa is a destination in its own right or the perfect place in which to relax after touring the amazing sights, cities, deserts and wildlife parks of India.

With long palm tree lined golden beaches, luxurious hotels, bustling colourful markets, lively nightlife, stunning scenery, friendly people, a laidback atmosphere and wide open spaces, Goa has something for everyone. Portuguese rule has influenced the architecture and cuisine in this cosmopolitan state which has become a melting pot of different cultures.

Destination Data

Location: On the west coast of India
Local Time: GMT + 5.5 hours
Flying time: Approximately 12 hours via Mumbai
Visa: Required to be arranged in advance of travel for UK passport holders
Currency: Indian Rupee
Vaccinations: Recommended, contact your doctor
Electricity: 220 - 240 volts

When to Visit

November to March offers warm, sunny weather with cooler evenings. May to September is quieter and brings monsoon rains, humidity and green countryside.
The Leela
Goa, India

Nestled between the pristine Mobor Beach and the scenic Sal River, The Leela is ideal for those wishing to get away from it all.

Set in 75 acres of landscaped gardens, this fusion of Portuguese and Indian heritage is committed to making your stay unforgettable. Guest rooms and suites are spacious, well appointed and offer modern amenities and most have a balcony or terrace. With luxurious accommodations, a wide variety of dining facilities, water and land activities, this hotel offers something for everyone.

Prices from £1375 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)

At a glance

Location: Mobor Beach, South Goa.
Transfer time: Approximately 45 minutes from Goa airport.
Rooms/suites: 206.
Restaurants/bars: 7.
Water Activities: Outdoor swimming pool, Dolphin cruise (on request) and water sports.
Land Activities: Fitness studio, 12 Hole Golf course, Beach sports, 3 floodlit tennis courts, Badminton, Croquet.
Spa/Beauty Services: Holistic & ayurveda spa, Steam and sauna.
Children: Children’s activity centre, swimming pool.
Star rating: ★★★★★
Park Hyatt Goa Resort and Spa
Goa, India

Nestled on the pristine Arossim Beach and set within 45 acres of gardens with flowing waterways and sparkling lagoons, Park Hyatt Goa Resort & Spa is the epitome of understated luxury and perfect for a relaxing break. Decorated in traditional Goan style, rooms and suites provide an opulent sanctuary, with garden or pool views, in which guests can unwind. Enjoy authentic Goan dishes in the traditionally designed Casa Sarita restaurant, embark on an epicurean journey of Italy at Da Luigi or enjoy casual poolside cocktails and snacks at Poolside Bar. Days can be spent basking by the swimming pool, learning new culinary skills with the master chefs or rejuvenating mind and body with a yoga session or in Sereno Spa.

Prices from £1485 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)

At a glance
Location: Arossim Beach, Goa.
Transfer time: Approximately 20 minutes from Goa airport.
Rooms/suites: 250.
Restaurants/bars: 7.
Water Activities: Swimming pool, jet skiing, parasailing and a dolphin cruise.
Land Activities: Gymnasium, tennis, yoga, archery.
Spa/Beauty Services: Sereno Spa.
Children: Camp Hyatt for 5 – 12 year olds. Babysitting available on request.
Star rating: ★★★★★
Whispering Palms Beach Resort

Goa, India

Located in the heart of peaceful and historic Candolim town, and just a few minutes’ walk from the quiet beach, The Whispering Palms Beach Resort has 106 rooms that blend Goan decor with contemporary facilities. Choose between luxurious Studio Suite Rooms, the spacious Terrace Rooms, or private Balcony Rooms. The rooms are surrounded by landscaped gardens and pool views and boast high ceilings and floor to ceiling windows.

The Pool is the centre of activity with the main restaurant offering European and local dishes. There is also a poolside bar and eatery offering snacks and drinks throughout the day. There is a gym, yoga is available and pampering can be arranged in the Spa. Situated approximately 50 minutes from Dabolim Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.

Prices from £1029 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)

Alila Diwa Goa

Goa, India

Set amidst lush, verdant rice plantations, Alila Diwa Goa brings a refreshingly unique resort experience to Gonsua Beach.

Inspired by traditional Goan design, the 153 guest rooms and suites have been designed for quiet indulgence, with private balconies or terraces and outstanding views of lush greenery. Enjoy an international dining experience throughout the 4 restaurant and bars. Feast on a delicious mix of Oriental, Indian and Western favourites at Vivo, savour the flavours of India at Spice Studio or sip on fusion cocktails while soaking in the beautiful views at Edge Bar and Lounge. Learn about traditional Indian cooking with the Spice Studio chef in a cooking master class, enjoy the latest Hollywood and Bollywood blockbusters in the private mini-theatre, take the complimentary shuttle to Gonsua Beach or simply unwind and reenergise at Spa Alila. Situated approximately 20 minutes from Dabolim Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★

Prices from £1245 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)
Vivanta by Taj Fort Aguada

Goa, India

Vivanta by Taj - Fort Aguada, is Goa at its best. Romantic. Charming. Vibrant. This peaceful resort creates the perfect backdrop for a romantic getaway. Charming rooms, cottages and villas boast outstanding views of the Balinese inspired gardens or sparkling Arabian Sea.

Guests can enjoy imaginative cuisine in some of Goa’s most celebrated restaurants. Dine on fresh seafood while overlooking the Candalim-Calangute-Baga Beach, feast on a range of continental, Goan and North Indian dishes in the trendy Latitude restaurant or unwind with a tall, cool drink at Martini Bar. Indulge and be invigorated at Jiva Spa, a spa experience that is guaranteed to surpass expectations. Overlooking powder white sands and the sparkling sea, every treatment in the spa has been designed to de-stress and rejuvenate.
Situated approximately 1 hour from Dabolim Airport.

*Star rating: ★★★★★
Prices from £1399 per person (Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)*

Taj Exotica

Goa, India

Overlooking the Arabian sea, the Mediterranean-style Taj Exotica is a showcase for relaxation with tropical-inspired design touches, grand architecture and flower lined patios. The 140 spacious and sophisticated rooms, villas and suites embody the Indian tradition of luxurious design and comfort. An elegant blend of Goan and Portuguese style, each room has a private balcony or terrace from which guests can enjoy the beautiful garden or sea view.

Dine on a wide variety of traditional and contemporary drinks and dishes from across the globe throughout the 7 restaurants and bars. Choose the succulent flavours of the Orient at Li Bai or Italian, Moroccan and Spanish fare at Miguel Arcanjo. Visit Jiva Spa at Taj Exotica for some of the best Indian rejuvenation therapies, from Ayurveda massages to body scrubs. Situated approximately 40 minutes from Dabolim Airport.

*Star rating: ★★★★★
Prices from £1559 per person (Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)*
A glimpse of Nepal

Sitting to the north of India, Nepal offers amazing diversity, from jungles and national parks filled with Bengal Tigers, leopards and rhinos to magnificent Himalayan peaks that are home to Snow Leopards, Red Pandas and the Himalayan Wild Yak, from ancient cities bursting with Hindu temples to villages, rice paddies and monasteries on a mountainside perches.

Trek through incredible mountain scenery as colourful prayer flags flutter in the wind, enjoy the adrenaline rush of paragliding through a beautiful valley, stroll around Buddhist stupas, explore old Kathmandu and feast on some delicious street food.

Nepal’s capital, and most cosmopolitan city, Kathmandu, is a melting pot of cultures that offers easy access to some of the country’s most sacred sites. Just 5km from the city, the great white stupa at Boudhanath is the spiritual hub of the Buddhist community and one of the world’s largest stupas. Further out of Kathmandu, the UNESCO World Heritage Site Bhaktapur offers a fascinating insight into ancient Nepalese life.

Nested within roaring gorges, terraced fields and soaring peaks, the laidback lakeside resort of Pokhara is popular with trekkers, thanks to its easy access to the Annapurna mountain range. However, this corner of Nepal is best viewed from above as Pokhara is known as one of the best spots for paragliding in Asia; when enjoying a bird’s-eye view of the valley, it’s easy to see why.

No visit to Nepal is complete without soaking in views of the Himalayas. Nagarkot, just outside Kathmandu, and Sarangkot, near Pokhara, offer great vistas of the snow-capped peaks. To enjoy outstanding views of Mount Everest, but without having to trek past Everest Base Camp, take to the skies for a scenic flight above the Himalayas.

Destination Data

Location: Landlocked, bordering India and China
Local Time: GMT + 5.45 hours
Flying time: Approximately 14 hours to Kathmandu from UK and Ireland
Visa: Required to be arranged in advance of travel for UK and Irish passport holders
Currency: Nepali Rupee
Vaccinations: Recommended, contact your doctor
Electricity: 230 - 240 volts

When to Visit

Autumn - October and November, are the most popular times to visit as the skies are clear and the temperatures are warm. For those planning to visit and trek, March and April are ideal months to visit as the weather is warm and the flora is at its most colourful. June to September is monsoon season and although most of the rain falls at night, mountain views can be restricted.
Himalayan Discovery
11 day, 10 night private tour

Nepal occupies a truly spectacular location, with the Gangetic plains of India to the south and the mighty Tibetan Plateau to the north.

This fertile land is home to a rich cultural heritage, perfectly showcased in a stunning collection of palaces, Buddhist monasteries and Hindu temples. This journey begins in the bustling capital of Kathmandu and includes a visit to the nearby ancient town of Bhadgaon. There is also the opportunity to take a flight to view Mt. Everest from the air – an experience not to be missed! Then take a short flight to Chitwan National Park to experience some of the region’s varied and unique wildlife, before travelling by chauffeur-driven car to the town of Pokhara, where the most spectacular mountain scenery on earth awaits…

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Fly to Kathmandu
Fly on an indirect flight to Kathmandu, Nepal’s vibrant capital.

Day 2: Kathmandu
Arrive in Kathmandu, where you will be met and transferred to your chosen hotel for two nights. The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax and enjoy the hotel facilities.

Day 3: Kathmandu
Optional 45 minute flight, which allows the opportunity to experience breathtaking views of Mt Everest and the Tibetan Plateau (subject to clear weather conditions on the day). After breakfast, proceed on a tour of Kathmandu and the surrounding area. This will include Patan, the Golden Temple and the temple of Taleju. Afterwards, wander around the narrow streets full of antique shops and bazaars. Also visit the temple of Kumari Devi. This afternoon visit the World Heritage Site of Swayambhunath, also known as the Monkey Temple, and Kathmandu’s Durbar Square. This area is home to about 50 temples and you will visit the Parvati Temple and the Great Bell and Drum.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4: Kathmandu – Chitwan National Park
Transfer to the airport for a flight to Bharatpur. On arrival you will be met and transferred to the Chitwan National Park and your lodge for the next three nights. The park covers an area of 932 square kilometres of subtropical Terai lowlands and is home to more than 40 mammal species, notably the endangered one-horned rhinoceros, gharial crocodile and the Bengal tiger. Other animals in the park include wild elephant, four-horned antelope, striped hyena and in the rivers, the Gangetic dolphin. Enjoy an Ox-cart ride to nearby Tharu Village to witness the lifestyle of the local tribes. The evening’s entertainment includes a presentation on the local flora and fauna.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 5: Chitwan National Park
Early this morning enjoy an elephant-back safari in the surrounding jungle (2-3 hours). This afternoon you have the option to canoe in the Rapti River, followed by a late afternoon guided jungle walk. This evening enjoy a Tharu Stick Dance performance, where local farmers will proudly display their traditional dancing skills.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 6: Chitwan National Park
Enjoy an ornithology walk this morning - 562 bird species have been recorded in Chitwan to date. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 7: Chitwan National Park - Pokhara
A scenic five hour drive brings you to Pokhara, nestled in a picturesque valley on the shores of Phewa Lake, with the stunning Annapurna mountain range as a backdrop. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore the town, or perhaps embark on a trek in the surrounding mountains – there is a range of walking experiences on offer, from relatively easy walks to more strenuous treks.

Meals included: Breakfast.

Day 8 and 9: Pokhara
The next two days are at leisure to enjoy this beautiful setting.

Meals included: Breakfast.

Day 10: Pokhara - Kathmandu
Transfer to the airport for an early afternoon flight to Kathmandu. Overnight in Kathmandu.

Meals included: Breakfast.

Day 11: Depart Nepal
Transfer to the airport for your flight home (with a change of aircraft en route)

Meals included: Breakfast.
Tour Hotels

Classic
Kathmandu .......... Hyatt Regency Kathmandu
Chitwan .............. Narayani Safari Lodge
Pokhara .............. Fishtail Lodge
Kathmandu .......... Hyatt Regency Kathmandu

Premium
Kathmandu .......... Dwarika’s Hotel
Chitwan .............. Tiger Tops Tharu Lodge
Pokhara .............. Fishtail Lodge
Kathmandu .......... Dwarika’s Hotel

For information on hotels please refer to page 78.

Prices from £2165 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Classic accommodation.

Prices from £3579 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Premium accommodation.

Price includes accommodation and meals as specified in itinerary, entrance fees, all transfers and English speaking guides for sightseeing in each destination as well as full programme as specified and transportation in private chauffeur driven air-conditioned vehicle. Price includes return scheduled flights with Qatar Airways from London and all airport taxes. Price excludes optional flight in Kathmandu. All travelling times are estimated and can be influenced by traffic volumes, road conditions, local events and weather.

If Only… in conjunction with our local Destination Management Company offers a selection of tours in Nepal which can be tailor-made to suit your requirements including additional night stays and excursions. Other hotels are available at a supplement. Please ask our destination experts for more details.

For information on hotels please refer to page 78.
For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
Nepal Tour Hotels

Hyatt Regency Kathmandu

*Kathmandu, Nepal*

Hyatt Regency Kathmandu is set in landscaped gardens close to Boudhanath Stupa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are 280 comfortable and well equipped rooms and suites. Facilities include four restaurants and bars, swimming pool, spa and fitness centre.

*Star rating:* ★★★★★

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Dwarika’s Hotel

*Kathmandu, Nepal*

Charming, restful, a piece of living history, Dwarika’s Hotel is an oasis of calm where the 86 meticulously designed rooms and suites offer a regal experience. The hotel also offers a good selection of restaurants, swimming pool and a spa.

*Star rating:* ★★★★★

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Narayani Safari Lodge

*Chitwan, Nepal*

Narayani Safari Lodge affords a quiet escape, with plenty of opportunities for wildlife spotting. There are 52 rustic guestrooms and a restaurant serving a set menu of local cuisine. Enjoy game drives and canoe trips in Chitwan National Park.

*Star rating:* ★★★

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Fishtail Lodge

*Pokhara, Nepal*

With Lake Fewa on one side and forest-covered hills on the other, Fishtail Lodge offers spectacular views over the Annapurna Range. There are 60 comfortable rooms as well as a restaurant serving Nepali, Chinese and Indian cuisine.

*Star rating:* ★★★
Nepal Tourism Hotels
A glimpse of Bhutan

Nestled in the Himalayas, the remote kingdom of Bhutan is a land of fertile valleys and primeval forests overlooked by glittering, snow-capped mountain peaks.

Challenging topography and political dogma of the past, that restricted visitors to this hidden kingdom, has helped retain a beautifully preserved and unspoiled destination that is reputed to be the happiest country in the world and considered the inspiration for mythical Shangri-La.

Spirituality abounds, in temples, in fortress-like dzongs, in the smiles of the locals, in dances, in textiles, in handicrafts and in this nation’s enlightened approach to the environment - Bhutan absorbs more carbon than it emits and measures Gross National Happiness. A sustainable approach to tourism that limits the number of visitors and enforces a minimum daily spend ensures that accommodation is of the highest standards – it not for those seeking budget backpacker-style travel.

Top of everyone’s Bhutan must-see list is Taktshang Goemba - ‘Tiger’s Nest Monastery’, one of the Himalaya’s most incredible sites that is perched on the side of a sheer cliff 900m above the floor of the Paro Valley. The climb of a thousand steps to this sacred site is well worth the effort. Relics, statues, murals and scared caves and chapels offer tales of religious legends related to this World Heritage site that was the birthplace of Buddhism in Bhutan.

Trek through fluttering prayer flags, rhododendron trees and conifer forests on ancient trails before descending through grassy meadows to discover historic monasteries, village markets and colourful festivals.

Religion and government intertwine in dzongs - grand administrative buildings that accommodate both civil officials and monks. Massive fortress-like dzongs across the country conceal a complex of courtyards, temples, administrative offices, and monk’s accommodation. Punakha Dzong is arguably the most beautiful in the country, especially in spring when it is surrounded by lilac coloured jacaranda trees.

Destination Data

Location: In the Himalaya mountain range between India and Tibet
Local Time: GMT + 6 hours
Flying time: Approximately 18 hours to Thimphu via Kolkata or Bangkok from the UK and Ireland
Visa: Visas are required to be arranged in advance of travel for UK and Irish passport holders
Currency: Ngultrum (BTN)
Vaccinations: Recommended, please contact your doctor
Electricity: Standard voltage is 230V, the standard frequency is 50 Hz and a variety of two and three pin plugs are used, so carrying an adapter is recommended

When to Visit

January and February can be cold but from then until April the climate remains dry and pleasant. In late spring the valleys are alive with colour as the famous rhododendrons bloom. From May it becomes hotter and more humid and from June to September the monsoon rains come. With clear, sunny skies and refreshing air, October to December is an ideal time to visit.
Bhutan -
Land of the Thunder Dragon
11 day, 10 night private tour

Lying on the slopes of the Eastern Himalaya, this landlocked kingdom places ‘Gross Domestic Happiness’ above ‘Gross Domestic Product’ and enthusiastically maintains Buddhist traditions while simultaneously embracing the modern world.

This is a land of vibrant people, spectacular festivals, stunning mountain scenery and deep seated tradition; a land where snow-capped peaks rise from lush green forests, towering above serene monasteries and imposing Dzongs (fortresses). Be one of the few privileged travellers to experience this unique country with this carefully designed itinerary which provides a contrasting variety of sights and experiences while staying in luxurious accommodation.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Take an overnight flight to the Indian metropolis of Kolkata.

Day 2: Kolkata
On arrival in Kolkata you will be met and transferred to the Swissotel, a modern luxury airport hotel where you will spend the night. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Meals included: None

Day 3: Kolkata - Thimpu
Transfer to the airport for the short flight to Paro. The picturesque approach into Paro provides unrivalled views of Himalayan peaks as you glide down over the Pa Chu (Paro River), Paro Dzong and Ta Dzong. On arrival you will be transferred to Thimpu, Bhutan’s modern capital, a 2 hour drive away. En route visit the confluence of the Thimpu and Paro Rivers, Chuzom, adorned by three distinctly different styles of stupas – Nepalese, Tibetan and Bhutanese. You will also see the ‘Temple of the Excellent Horse’, Tschogang Lhakhang. Just before you arrive in Thimpu, visit Kuensel Phodrang – Buddha Point – for a spectacular view of the Thimpu Valley. Overnight at your chosen hotel for two nights.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 4: Thimpu
Enjoy a tour of Thimpu which will include the National Library, the Folk Heritage and National Textile Museums and the National Memorial Chorten, built by Bhutan’s third King to celebrate world peace and prosperity. Also visit Tashichho Dzong, a beautiful medieval fortress housing the government offices and the King’s throne and Pangri Zampa, two 16th century buildings which now house a monastic training school for astrologers.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 5: Paro - Punakha
Drive to Punakha (4 hours), stopping at Dochu La Pass (3,088m/10,130ft) to take in the fantastic mountain scenery and see the prayer flags which decorate the highest point on this road. On a clear day several Himalayan peaks can be seen, including Gangkar Puensum, Bhutan’s highest peak. Visit Sangshen Dorji Lhendrup Lhakhang, Perched on a ridge amidst pine trees, overlooking the valleys of Punakha and Wangduephodrang, this gleaming temple houses several bronze statues in addition to a higher learning and meditation centre for nuns. Overnight at your chosen hotel for two nights.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 6: Punakha
This morning enjoy an excursion to Chimi Lakhang, a temple dedicated to Lama Drukpa Kinley, who in the late 15th century used humour, songs and generally outrageous behavior to dramatise his teachings, leading to him being known as the ‘Divine Madman’. Visit the Punakha Dzong, built in 1637 strategically located at the scenic junction of Pho Chhu and Mo Chhu Rivers to serve as the religious and administrative centre of the region.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 7: Punakha - Paro
Enjoy a scenic drive to Paro (4-5 hours). This afternoon visit the Ta Dzong, which in the past served as the watchtower for the Paro Dzong and now houses the National Museum. Also visit the nearby Paro Dzong, which houses the District Monastic Body of Paro and the offices of the Dzongda (District Administrative Head) and Thrumpon (Judge) of Paro. This Dzong is the venue for the annual Paro Tsechu festival. Overnight at your chosen hotel for two nights.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 8: Paro
No trip to Bhutan is complete without a visit to the iconic Taksang Monastery, also known as ‘Tiger’s Nest’, perched precariously on a cliff 900 metres above the valley floor. This is a most sacred site and all Bhutanese endeavor to visit this monastery at least once during their lifetimes. Later visit the ruins of the Drukyel Dzong, destroyed by fire in 1951 but still protected and maintained as an important monument for the Bhutanese people.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 9: Paro - Kolkata
After an early breakfast transfer to the airport to board your flight to Kolkata. You will be met on arrival in Kolkata and transferred to your chosen hotel, where you spend the next two nights. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast
Day 10: Kolkata Enjoy a tour of Kolkata which includes the Victoria Memorial and the Kali Temple, in addition to a drive along Howrah Bridge and past Dalhousie Square, Fort William, the Secretariat Building and Old Court House Street.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 11: Depart Kolkata Transfer to airport this morning for your flight home.

Meals included: Breakfast

Tour Hotels

Classic
Kolkata .........................Swissotel
Thimphu .......................Druk Hotel
Punakha .....................Dhensa
Paro ..........................Zhiwa Ling
Kolkata ..........................The Oberoi Grand

Premium
Kolkata .........................Swissotel
Thimphu .......................Taj Tashi
Punakha ........................Uma Punakha
Paro ..........................Uma Paro
Kolkata ..........................The Oberoi Grand

Prices from £3805 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Classic accommodation.

Prices from £5195 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Premium accommodation.

Price includes accommodation as specified in itinerary, meals as stated, entrance fees, all transfers and full programme as specified and transportation in a private air-conditioned vehicle with an English-speaking chauffeur guide. Price includes return scheduled flights from London together with internal flights, and all airport taxes. All travelling times are estimated and can be influenced by traffic volumes, road conditions, local events and weather.

If Only… in conjunction with our local Destination Management Company offers a selection of tours in Bhutan which can be tailor-made to suit your requirements including additional night stays and excursions. Other hotels are available at a supplement. Please ask our destination experts for more details.

For information on hotels please refer to pages 84 and 85

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
Hotel Druk

Thimphu, Bhutan

Nestled in the heart of vibrant Thimpu, Hotel Druk is an elegant and relaxed haven. Beautifully appointed rooms and suites boast stunning views of the city and beyond. Each modern yet spacious bathroom features a deep bath, separate shower and luxurious amenities.

The Hotel Druk restaurant serves international favourites and local delicacies from fresh, local ingredients, in a stunning setting. Hi Jinks, one of Thimphu’s most stylish bars, offers a tempting selection of cocktails which can be enjoyed while sitting by the fire. The hotel’s central location is perfect for exploring the surrounding area by rented bicycle or on an excursion. Unwind in the sauna or steam bath, located in the gym, after an exciting day of discovery.

Star rating: ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐

Taj Tashi

Thimphu, Bhutan

Nestled in the Himalayan mountains, the Taj Tashi combines Bhutanese Dzong architecture with contemporary design and facilities. Located in Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan, the hotel is ideally located for exploring this kingdom’s centuries-old street festivals, remarkable monasteries, picturesque mountain passes and unspoiled countryside.

The 66 stylish rooms and suites are decorated with hand drawn murals and provide panoramic views of the town and surrounding mountains. Activities include an indoor swimming pool, fitness centre, yoga and the hotel is situated just a short walk from a golf course. Alternatively, indulge in a serene atmosphere at the Jiva Spa – a truly uplifting experience. Authentic local, Continental and Asian fare is served in the hotel restaurant, all accompanied by renowned Taj hospitality.

Star rating: ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐
Dhensa Punakha

*Punakha, Bhutan*

In the heart of the lush Punakha Valley, fringed by thick pine forests and overlooking the Punakha River and hundreds of paddy fields, lies Dhensa Punakha. It is surrounded by plentiful walking and trekking trails and is just a five minute trek up the mountain to the magnificent Sangchhen Dorji Lhuendrup Lhakhang Nunnery, which houses one of the largest bronze statues of Chenrigzig in the country.

With 24 suites, all with private balconies, the hotel encapsulates beauty and simplicity with spacious interiors that are deliberately understated in design. Guests may select from a menu of Western classics, traditional Asian favourites and dishes that offer a taste of Bhutan. Whether enjoying the scenery or relaxing in the spa, Dhensa will leave you relaxed and rejuvenated.

*Star rating: ⭐⭐⭐⭐ Superior.*

Uma by COMO, Paro

*Paro, Bhutan*

A stay at COMO Uma Paro is about becoming immersed in the richly textured culture of Bhutan while enjoying the luxuries of a COMO resort. The 29 rooms and villas combine traditional colour accents with modern design and offer inspiring views of the forests, mountains or valley.

Indulge yourself in fine authentic Bhutanese or International cuisine after a day spent in the gym, by the indoor pool, practising yoga or exploring the area on bicycle or foot. Wellness is taken very seriously with a spa specialising in Asian inspired treatments. Uma Paro is ideally situated for exploring the area’s highlights including Tiger’s Nest monastery and the museums, markets and monasteries of Thimpu.

*Star rating: ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐*
A glimpse of Thailand

Not surprisingly, the Kingdom of Thailand is the most visited country in southeast Asia. The land of a thousand smiles is friendly and fun loving and offers a breathtaking range of scenery - from the jungle forested hills in the north to the unbelievably clear and warm waters of the Andaman Sea off the west coast.

With its eclectic mix of culture, cuisine and commerce, most visitors spend time in Bangkok before going up country to the jungle of heading for the islands and beaches. Serene Buddhist temples, golden royal palaces, buzzing street markets, glitzy shopping centres, gleaming hotels and colonial edifices all jostle for space in what is one of Asia’s largest cities. The same vibrant mix of sights, sounds, scents, spirituality and cultures can be found in many other cities and resorts throughout the country.

The mighty Chao Phraya River winds through a wide flat valley and dominates the centre of the country. This is where the vibrant capital city, Bangkok and some of the country’s larger beach resorts such as Hua Hin can be found.

The Andaman Sea (part of the Indian Ocean), situated south of Myanmar and west of Thailand, has an abundance of coral reefs and 16 marine national parks. Attracted by the hundreds of islands in warm seas, soft sandy beaches and an excellent tourism infrastructure, most visitors take the one hour flight from Bangkok to the smaller airports in the region, but more recently some international carriers fly directly to Phuket and Krabi.

The Gulf of Thailand is bordered by Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam, with the Bay of Bangkok and the mouth of the Chao Phraya River at its northern tip. Renowned for its many coral reefs, more recently the bay has become known for its whale watching activities. The most popular holiday destination in the Gulf of Thailand is Koh Samui. Away from the luxury resorts and exclusive spas, there’s also a lively nightlife scene, so Koh Samui maintains a broad appeal for everyone and has a distinctively relaxed atmosphere that sets it apart from other Thai islands.

Nestled amongst forested foothills, Chiang Mai is Thailand’s northern capital and the ancient capital of the Lanna kingdom. It is a laid back destination where the historic centre still feels more like a relaxed country town. The diversity of attractions in Chiang Rai Province include its capital - a small city that is worth getting to know. It offers a relaxed atmosphere and great local food and is an ideal base from which explore more remote corners of the province.

Destination Data

Location: South eastern Asia, bordered by Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar
Local Time: GMT + 7 hours
Flying time: Approximately 12 hours from the UK and Ireland
Visa: UK and Irish passport holders can visit visa free for up to 30 days, but if planning to enter by land through a neighbouring country please check with the nearest Royal Thai Embassy well before travel.
Currency: Thai Bhat (THB)
Vaccinations: May be recommended depending on the area to be visited, contact your doctor
Electricity: 220 volts

When to Visit

Thailand’s climate is varied, but in general the best time to visit is during the cool and dry season from November to early April. The eastern and western coast weather varies slightly, with the west coast being more favourable during the winter months. The weather on the east coast is good for most of the year, with the lowest rainfall in January and February and the highest in November. Thailand is always warm, but it’s worth remembering that the northern, hilly regions are usually several degrees cooler than the south.
The majesty and splendour of the E&O, with its comfortable and elegant compartments, delicious cuisine and superb service, combined with the adventure of a journey through the heart of Asia, is a truly unique way to experience the full wonder of this remarkable region.

A quarter of a mile in length, the Eastern & Oriental Express luxury train recaptures the golden age of rail travel through one of the world’s most beautiful and exotic regions.

Each beautifully appointed compartment is fully air conditioned with an en suite shower, washbasin and WC and features large picture windows. Facilities include 24-hour steward service, international electric sockets, a personal combined safe and hairdryer. A journey on the Eastern & Oriental Express is the ultimate centrepiece of any visit to the Far East and can be combined with a stay in Thailand, Singapore or with a Silversea cruise to create a truly magical journey.

Classic Journey
Bangkok - Singapore (4 days/3 nights)
Singapore - Bangkok (3 days/2 nights)

Tour Itinerary
Bangkok - Singapore: Travel from Bangkok through the beauty of Thailand, to the infamous River Kwai and onwards to Malaysia, colonial Georgetown and Fort Cornwallis, before crossing the causeway over the Straits of Johor to the elegant city of Singapore.

Trip Highlights
Wang Po & River Kwai: Awake early in order not to miss the excitement of the train making its way from Wang Po along the wooden trestle viaduct. Disembark for a short guided tour of this infamous area.

Butterworth, Penang: Visit Georgetown, capital of Penang, on the local ferry.

Prices from £2339 per person*
*Based on 2 persons sharing a Pullman Cabin on a Full Board basis including house wine, house spirits, local beer and soft drinks.

Chronicles of Southeast Asia
Fables of the Hills
(Singapore - Bangkok, 7 days/6 nights)

Tour Itinerary
An extended journey through the delights of Asia from Singapore to Bangkok, including visits to Kuala Lumpur, Cameron Highlands, Penang, Tham Kasae Viaduct and the River Kwai. Gaze through large picture windows as bustling cities, verdant countryside and dense jungle landscapes sweep past.

Prices from £6295 per person*
*Based on 2 persons sharing a State Cabin on a Full Board basis including house wine, house spirits, local beer and soft drinks.

All prices exclude international flights and pre or post journey accommodation and transfers.
Elephant Hills Jungle Safari
3 day, 2 night tour
Khao Sok National Park

Take some time away from the beaches to return to nature on this jungle adventure, located in the largest area of rainforest in Southern Thailand. The thirty luxury tents at Elephant Hills are very comfortable and feature handmade furniture. There is the opportunity to take a dip in the swimming pool before relaxing over dinner.

Tour Itinerary

**Day 1:** Pick up from your hotel in Phuket, Krabi, or Khao Lak and transfer to Khao Sok. Meet, feed and interact with the elephants in a jungle environment. After lunch explore Sok River by canoe before dinner.

Meals included: Lunch and Dinner.

**Day 2:** Today will be spent exploring the jungle lake by boat. Be inspired by the amazing scenery and enjoy a swim in the lake.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

**Day 3:** After a night spent in the tranquillity of the jungle, explore the rainforest on foot, with friendly local guides who will share their expert knowledge on the flora and fauna. After lunch, depart for the airport or your original hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch.

Prices from £455 per person
(Based on two persons sharing)

Price includes accommodation and meals as specified in itinerary, entrance fees, all transfers and full tour programme as stated and transportation on a shared basis in an air conditioned vehicle with an English-speaking chauffeur guide. Excludes international flights.

Please contact our Thailand experts for details on this and other extensions we offer in Thailand including the Golden Triangle and Hill Tribes of Northern Thailand and The Float House River Kwai short tours.

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
Rembrandt Hotel Bangkok

Bangkok, Thailand

This award-winning hotel is conveniently located in the fashionable Sukhumvit area, providing easy access to shopping, city landmarks and vibrant nightlife. Guestrooms are stylish, with modern amenities and have a relaxing ambience.

Star rating: ★★★★ Superior.

Prices from £55 per person per night on a bed and breakfast basis

Mode Sathorn Hotel

Bangkok, Thailand

Sitting on Bangkok's most dynamic boulevard, Mode Sathorn Hotel is the ideal choice for cosmopolitan travellers. Carefully decorated with fashionable finishings, this 38 floor hotel offers great city views from many of the rooms and from the rooftop bar.

Star rating: ★★★★

Prices from £55 per person per night on a bed and breakfast basis

Banyan Tree Bangkok

Bangkok, Thailand

Banyan Tree Bangkok offers a central downtown location, generously proportioned and tastefully designed guestrooms and the opportunity to enjoy a fabulous cocktail in the city's most famous rooftop bar and restaurant, overlooking the glittering cityscape of Bangkok.

Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.

Prices from £89 per person per night on a bed and breakfast basis

Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok

Bangkok, Thailand

Nestled in the heart of Bangkok, along the vibrant Chao Phraya River, Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok offers impeccable service and gracious Thai hospitality. Spacious guestrooms are elegant sanctuaries, finished with classic Thai touches and river or city views.

Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.

Prices from £129 per person per night on a bed and breakfast basis
Situated in a magical beachfront setting, Centara Grand Beach Resort and Villas Hua Hin has been welcoming guests to this royal resort since the early 1920’s.

Guestrooms reflect the heritage of the resort with high ceilings, polished hardwood floors, period furniture and modern conveniences.

The Railway Restaurant offers a wide range of international cuisine whilst the Elephant Bar is a perfect spot for afternoon tea and innovative cocktails. The Spa offers a unique blend of Asian spa therapies, with a focus on traditional Thai treatments. Each of the 4 swimming pools has its own children’s pool, while Camp Safari Kids Club for children aged 4-9 years and E-Zone for teenagers will keep younger family members entertained.

Prices from £1109 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

**Location:** Located in the centre of Hua Hin.
**Transfer time:** Approximately 3 hours from Bangkok International Airport.
**Rooms/suites:** 249
**Restaurants/bars:** 7.
**Water activities:** 4 swimming pools.
**Land activities:** Fitness Centre, tennis, badminton, giant chess and 2 putting greens. 6 golf courses nearby.
**Spa/Beauty Services:** Beauty Salon and SPA.
**Children:** Kids Club - Camp Safari & E-Zone.
**Board basis:** Bed and Breakfast.
**Star rating:** ★★★★★
Cape Nidhra Hotel

Hua Hin, Thailand

Characterised by impeccable service and elegant accommodation, this all pool suite hotel’s beachfront location offers easy access to Hua Hin’s street markets, shopping centres and restaurants. Stylish suites with clean lines, furnished with local materials in natural tones, create cool and relaxing guestrooms, each suite has its own deck or balcony with a private pool and an enticing daybed.

Rocks Restaurant serves cosmopolitan dishes and also produces genuine Thai specialities using the best local ingredients. Perched above the infinity pool, On the Rocks Bar is a nightspot where one can take in the remarkable views of the Gulf of Thailand.

Prepare to be indulged at Cape Spa - a tranquil and private oasis, blending sea breezes with relaxing surroundings and effective and soothing treatments.

Prices from £1185 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: Perched on the shores of Hua Hin’s breathtaking beach.
Transfer time: Approximately 3 hours drive from Bangkok.
Rooms/suites: 59.
Restaurants/bars: 2.
Water activities: One swimming pools, sea Canoes.
Land activities: Fitness centre with sauna and steam room, reading room with computer and internet access.
Spa/Beauty Services: Cape Spa.
Children: Babysitting available on request & Children’s section in the pool.
Board basis: Bed and Breakfast, Half Board and Full Board.
Star rating: ★★★★★
The Legend Chiang Rai
Boutique River Resort & Spa

Chiang Rai, Thailand

Resting on the banks of the Mae Kok River, the Legend Chiang Rai delivers an authentic Lanna atmosphere. Its shady trees, lotus ponds and lush vegetation help make the resort the perfect retreat.

The resort features 78 well-appointed studios and villas designed in a classic northern Thai style with natural wood furnishings and cool cotton and silk fabrics. The Riverside terrace has a wonderfully relaxing ambiance and is set against the backdrop of the river. Dishes prepared in the open kitchen feature both Western and Thai cooking styles. Nestled between shady trees, the swimming pool provides a welcome refresher when returning from a day’s sightseeing. Traditional Thai herbal treatments are customised for the needs of today at The Legend Spa.

Star rating: ★★★★

Prices from £189 per person
(Based on a 3 night stay, including transfers and breakfast).

Tamarind Village

Chiang Mai, Thailand

Situated in the heart of the old city of Chiang Mai, Tamarind Village is an intimate and relaxing oasis of calm and tranquility. Guestrooms and suites are decorated with simple and elegant touches, with contemporary touches contrasting with hill-tribe fabrics.

Thai and international dishes are served in the stylish setting of Ruen Tamarind. The hotel is also renowned for its afternoon tea menu which features sweet and savoury dishes complimented by a wide selection of coffees and teas. The hotel offers a complimentary daily walking tour of the area’s historic sites, whilst the swimming pool provides a cooling haven after a day’s sightseeing. The Village Spa is a sanctuary where guests can relax and be pampered in privacy and tranquility.

Star rating: ★★★★

Prices from £205 per person
(Based on a 3 night stay, including transfers and breakfast).
Anantara Chiang Mai Resort

Chiang Mai, Thailand

Lying along the peaceful banks of the Mae Ping River, Anantara Chiang Mai Resort offers tranquil seclusion with relaxing views of the gardens or the peaceful flow of Thai river life. Explore the city’s temples, bustling markets and ancient Lanna ruins or venture further afield for elephant viewing and river rafting experiences or visit spectacular national parks, hill tribes and handicraft villages.

Housed in a striking modern building, rooms and suites boast a private balcony overlooking manicured gardens, The Colonial House or Mae Ping River. Embark on a gastronomical adventure with talented chefs, bartenders, Tea Master and Wine Guru serving expertly crafted classics. Swim and sunbathe watching river life flow by. Delve into local culture with Thai massage, boxing and cooking classes.

*Star rating: ★★★★★

Prices from £265 per person
(Based on a 3 night stay including transfers and breakfast).

Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort

Chiang Rai, Thailand

Explore the enchanting world of elephants at Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort, set in 160 acres of ancient jungle and perched on a ridge overlooking the hills of Thailand, Myanmar and Laos.

All guestrooms offer spacious balconies, with stunning views to the Mekong River or the resort’s landscaped gardens. Let your senses indulge in the colours, aromas and tastes of rich northern Thai curries and tempt your plate with surprising Thai wines. Designed as a traditional northern Thai Mahout village, the onsite working Elephant Camp offers the chance to interact with elephants in a stunning natural environment. Let Anantara Spa take you on a journey that relaxes, restores, and revives with treatments designed to address the body, mind and soul.

*Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.

Prices from £1325 per person
(Based on a 3 night stay including transfers and All Inclusive).
Wander into an oasis of old-world charm at MANATHAI Koh Samui where walls adorned in cheerful hues are complimented with soft white details to frame a vision of a bygone Thai era. Boundless gardens create a sense of calm and space on the serene sands of Lamai Beach. Blending classical oriental charm and elegance, all rooms and suites are tastefully designed to evoke auras of warmth and exclusivity.

Celebrate Thailand’s diverse culinary delights in the fine selection of restaurants. Whether looking for waterfront dining, a simple local meal, or a place to relax with a beverage, find the perfect spot at one of the four restaurants. The Kids Club offers a host of Thai activities for including Thai dancing, yoga and sandcastle making.

Prices from £1049 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: On Lamai Beach.
Transfer time: Approximately 25 minutes from Samui International Airport.
Rooms/suites: 148.
Restaurants/bars: 4.
Water activities: Two swimming pools.
Land activities: Fitness centre, library.
Children: Yim Yai Kids Club.
Board basis: Bed and Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★
Centara Villas Samui

*Koh Samui, Thailand*

With its southern Thai style, enchanting tropical ambience and crystal clear waters, Centara Villas Samui offers all the privacy and tranquillity that one could desire. Nestled in a tropical environment, the resort’s 102 villas seamlessly blend with their verdant gardens and cascade down a gentle hillside to the beach. Rooms are decorated in cool neutral tones, with splashes of vibrant jewel-coloured fabrics and traditional dark wood floors.

Enjoy stunning ocean views whilst dining on succulent fresh seafood, international or Oriental dishes before relaxing with a cocktail in Papillon Lounge. Leisure activities include a long tail boat service for fishing or snorkeling, bike and kayak rental and a nearby PADI dive centre. SPA Cenvaree offers pampering treatments that are both relaxing and beneficial. Situated approximately 30 minutes from Samui International Airport.

**Star rating:** ★★★★☆

**Prices from £1219 per person**
*(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)*.

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Centara Grand Beach Resort Samui

*Koh Samui, Thailand*

Sitting on Chaweng Beach, the premier beach resort on the island, Centara Grand Beach Resort Samui offers first class Thai hospitality in a beautiful, tranquil environment. Colonial influences meet modern-day comforts and each guestroom has a spacious bathroom, cool parquet flooring and dark wood furnishings accented by colourful Thai fabrics.

Culinary highlights include New World cuisines, Signature seafood dishes and specialties inspired by Thai and Asian culinary traditions. Enjoy lazing the day away by the large swimming pool with its own swim-up pool bar and Jacuzzi or retreat to Spa Cenvaree - a refuge of wellbeing and relaxation. To keep younger guests entertained, there is a children’s pool, the Kids’ Club and a daily activity programme. Situated approximately 20 minutes drive from Samui International Airport.

**Star rating:** ★★★★☆

**Prices from £1409 per person**
*(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)*.
Bo Phut Resort & Spa
Koh Samui, Thailand

A beautiful, contemporary boutique resort located on Koh Samui’s northern tip, Bo Phut Resort & Spa boasts 7 acres of splendid tropical gardens and a superb beach.

All rooms, suites and villas are indulgently spacious and contemporary yet retain a Thai style with the use of natural materials. Two tantalising restaurants, Sala Thai Restaurant, serving authentic Thai cuisine and L’Ocean Restaurant, serving Mediterranean specialities, provide both indoor and outdoor dining options. Overlooking the beach, which offers a selection of watersports, the outdoor pool is a perfect getaway while the Fitness Centre provides aerobics and other activities. The finest ingredients and well-trained therapists are on hand to deliver a state of bliss and wellbeing with a range of tailored spa treatments.

Prices from £1535 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: On the northern tip of Samui.
Transfer time: Approximately 10 minutes from Koh Samui Airport.
Rooms/suites: 61.
Restaurants/bars: 2.
Water activities: Swimming pool and a selection of water sports.
Land activities: Fitness centre. The Santiburi Golf Course is located nearby.
Spa/Beauty Services: Bo Phut Spa.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast, Half Board and Full Board.
Star rating: ★★★★☆
At SALA Samui Resort and Spa, a comfortable, relaxing ambiance is created by a harmonious blend of traditional Thai architecture with modern facilities and amenities. Guest accommodation is styled in cool whites and warm neutral tones and are simple and chic relaxing spaces. Dining is not just a meal, but a journey of flavours and culinary creations from around the world in idyllic settings.

Find some quiet time in the library or take a complimentary yoga class. Two beachfront pools and an extensive beach offer options for water sports. The Spa is an oasis of calm and peace, nestled in a lush landscape, only steps from the beach. It’s the perfect place to relax, unwind and escape from the outside world.

Prices from £1555 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance
Location: On Choeng Mon beach on the northeast corner of Koh Samui.
Transfer time: Approximately 15 minutes from Samui Airport.
Rooms/suites: 69.
Restaurants/bars: 3.
Water activities: 2 beachfront swimming pools.
Land activities: Library, gym, yoga and Thai cooking classes.
Spa/Beauty Services: The SALA Spa Samui.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★★
The Tongsai Bay
Koh Samui, Thailand

Hidden amongst 25 acres of breathtaking natural beauty and overlooking a secluded bay, The Tongsai Bay is renowned for its privacy and tranquillity, love for the environment and the friendliness of its staff.

The luxurious Villas and Suites are tastefully appointed with beautiful hardwood floors, terraces and open-air bathtubs, some with a private pool, allowing guests to connect with their tropical surroundings. Dining is a memorable experience, with options that will delight even the most discerning palates including traditional Thai and western dishes. There are two swimming pools, one ‘adults only’ in order to maintain a peaceful atmosphere. Prana Spa specialises in a relaxing technique whereby the mind and body are synchronised which can help decrease stress or tension.

Prices from £1565 per person (Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: On the northeastern tip of Koh Samui.
Transfer time: Approximately 10 minutes from Samui Airport.
Rooms/suites: 83.
Restaurants/bars: 2.
Water activities: 2 swimming pools, non-motorised water sports including sailing boats, canoes, windsurfing, hobie cats and snorkelling.
Land activities: Exercise room, tennis court and recreation room plus Thai cooking classes.
Spa/Beauty Services: Prana Spa.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★★
Santiburi Beach Resort & Spa
Koh Samui, Thailand

Santiburi Beach Resort & Spa is a secluded and luxurious hideaway on the unspoilt northern coast. With expansive beaches and shallow waters, the resort, designed in a classic Thai style, also has 23 hectares of grounds filled with tropical flowers and hundred year old trees.

Surrounded by verdant gardens, the villas and suites offer tranquillity and privacy. Each luxurious villa features sleek, modern design, blended with warm, contemporary Thai décor. Santiburi prides itself on delivering outstanding dining experiences, in a refined yet relaxed atmosphere. Cuisines include global favourites and Thai specialities. Just 10 minutes away, the resort’s own golf club, Santiburi Country Club (par 72 and 6,930 yards), offers 18 holes of championship golfing terrain set amidst stunning scenery.

Prices from £1719 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: On the northeastern tip of Koh Samui.
Transfer time: Approximately 25 minutes from Koh Samui Airport.
Rooms/suites: 77.
Restaurants/bars: 5.
Water activities: Swimming pool, water sports including windsurfing and hobie cats.
Land activities: Tennis, petanque, fitness centre. Golf putting practice facility and 18-hole championship golf course just 10 minutes away.
Spa/Beauty Services: Santiburi by Bhawa Spa.
Children: Children’s swimming pool and children’s club. Babysitting available on request.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast, Half Board and Full Board.
Star rating: ★★★★★
Six Senses Samui is set around a gently sloping headland amongst 20 acres of indigenous plantings. Six Senses resorts are synonymous with a unique style – authentic, personal and sustainable and in harmony with their surroundings.

All villas are split-level providing a spacious retreat. Sun decks take advantage of the views and provide an intimate setting for private dining. Villa Butlers are on hand to help with any request. The award-winning Dining on the Rocks Restaurant is located at the tip of the headland and presents a 270 degree view, whilst Dining on the Hill offers regional and international cuisine. Indulge in a treatment from the extensive menu at the Six Senses Spa which will calm the soul and uplift the spirit.

Prices from £2019 per person (Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: On the northern tip of Samui Island.
Transfer time: Approximately 10 minutes from Samui Airport.
Rooms/suites: 66.
Restaurants/bars: 3.
Water activities: Swimming pool and a variety of non-motorised water sports.
Land activities: Gymnasium, Thai cooking classes.
Spa/Beauty Services: Six Senses Spa.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast, Half Board and Full Board.
Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.
Banyan Tree Samui

Koh Samui, Thailand

Nestled on a private hill cove, Banyan Tree Samui overlooks the glorious panorama that encompasses Lamai Bay. This luxurious resort is situated in a series of cascading terraces and features villas designed to reflect traditional Thai architecture. Enjoy an extensive pool, bathroom with rain shower and bathtub, outdoor lounge deck and open concept bedroom and a spacious living area - all available within each luxurious Villa.

For a meal with a view, try the Edge where a sumptuous array of international dishes is expertly created. Enjoy yoga and Sun Salutation classes under the tutelage of professional instructors in the Yoga Room. With a suite of Treatment Pavilions and Vitality Pool, total rejuvenation can be found in the calm of Banyan Tree Spa Samui.

Prices from £2515 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: 19km from Samui Airport on the southeast coast of the island.
Transfer time: Approximately 30 minutes drive from Samui Airport.
Rooms/suites: 88.
Restaurants/bars: 5.
Water activities: Swimming pool with a kids pool.
Land activities: Gymnasium, yoga room, library and games room.
Spa/Beauty Services: Banyan Tree Spa.
Children: Kids Club and Kids pool.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.
Angsana Laguna Phuket, set between the pristine lagoon and sandy beach of the Andaman Sea, provides ample space and quieter corners in which to truly relax in stylish surroundings. Guestrooms are spacious with modern décor and have balconies offering garden and lagoon views.

Dine al fresco or in air-conditioned comfort at Bodega & Grill located by the pool or try scrumptious casual dining in Market Place. When the sun sets, the atmosphere at XANA electrifies with live entertainment, the latest music and a sumptuous spread of tapas. Try a sailing lesson on the lagoon or take a bike ride around the 1,000 acres of parkland. Using native ingredients, highly qualified spa therapists deliver a wide range of Asian-inspired therapies and treatments.

Prices from £1119 per person (Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: In the Laguna Resort in Bang Tao Bay.
Transfer time: Approximately 20 minutes from Phuket International Airport.
Rooms/suites: 404.
Restaurants/bars: 7.
Water activities: 4 swimming pools, beach club, non-motorised water sports.
Land activities: Fitness Centre including Yoga and aerobics, 18-hole golf course in the Laguna complex.
Spa/Beauty Services: Angsana Spa.
Children: Kids Club for children aged 4 - 12 years.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast and All Inclusive.
Star rating: ★★★★★
Dusit Thani Laguna
Phuket, Thailand

Situated on the calm shores of the Andaman Sea and shaded by coconut palms, Dusit Thani Laguna is a sanctuary for the senses. Guests enjoy access to a range of world-class facilities, all easily accessed by complimentary shuttle boats and buses. Elegant guest rooms, suites and private pool villas overlook the lagoon or sparkling sea and are bright and airy havens of serenity.

Start the day at Laguna Café or enjoy all-day a la carte dining on a wide variety of cuisines including Thai, Chinese and Portuguese. An array of facilities are available for guests, while the swimming pool and non motorised water sports are perfect for cooling down. Angsana Spa Dusit Laguna offers a wide selection of therapies, beauty treatments and massages.

Prices from £1015 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

**Location:** On Bang Tao Bay on the northwest coast of Phuket.

**Transfer time:** Approximately 30 minutes from Phuket Airport.

**Rooms/suites:** 252.

**Restaurants/bars:** 7.

**Water activities:** Swimming pool plus a variety of non motorised water sports.

**Land activities:** Tennis, fitness centre, jogging track, yoga, 3-hole ‘Pitch and Putt’, 18-hole golf course nearby and outdoor adventure training.

**Spa/Beauty Services:** Angsana Spa Dusit.

**Children:** Busy Bee Kids Club, outdoor playground and children’s pool.

**Board basis:** Bed & Breakfast, Half Board and Full Board.

**Star rating:** ★★★★★

Thailand 105
Cape Panwa Hotel

Phuket, Thailand

Perched on a hill with a panoramic view of the Andaman Sea and set in lush gardens, Cape Panwa Hotel defines tropical grandeur by blending superbly with the surrounding natural beauty while providing excellent service and an exclusive beach.

Furnished in a clean and modern style with touches of Thai art and design, the spacious, sea-facing guestrooms are ideal for a relaxing and comfortable stay. Bright bathrooms and spacious balconies complete the picture. With 5 restaurants and 5 bars, varying from elegant to casual, every taste is catered for - be it Thai, French, Italian, seafood, continental or Asian cuisine. The Cape Spa offers treatments by highly skilled body technicians to ensure pampering perfection.

Prices from £1019 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: Located at the southern tip of the east coast of Phuket Island.
Transfer time: Approximately 50 minutes from Phuket International Airport.
Rooms/suites: 205.
Restaurants/bars: 10.
Water activities: 2 swimming pools, sea canoeing, catamaran and stand up paddle boards.
Land activities: Fitness centre, table tennis, billiards, Batik painting, Thai cooking classes, Thai boxing classes - additional charge may apply to some activities.
Spa/Beauty Services: Cape Spa, beauty salon and hairdresser.
Children: Games room, playground and children’s pool.
Board basis: Bed and Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★ Superior.
Resting along 850m of unspoiled white sandy beach, embraced by lush green hills and sparkling blue ocean, Katathani Phuket Beach Resort recalls a tropical dream. Stylish and glamorous rooms in natural tones with splashes of vibrant colour create spaces that are ideal for relaxation. Private balconies provide pool, garden or sea views.

Try a different cuisine every day - with 12 bars and restaurants, there is plenty of choice. With 6 swimming pools and 3 Jacuzzis, the Sea Fun Diver Divers School & Shop and aqua-aerobics, water babies will be spoiled for choice. In the sanctuary of the Tew Son Spa, therapists offer a menu of treatments that utilise both professional Aromatherapy products and carefully selected age old Thai formulations.

Prices from £1119 per person (Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: Southwest coast of Phuket Island in Kata Noi Bay.
Transfer time: Approximately 1 hour from Phuket Airport.
Rooms/suites: 479.
Restaurants/bars: 12.
Water activities: 6 Swimming pools and 3 Jacuzzis, Sea Fun Diver Divers School & Shop, aqua-aerobics (high season only).
Land activities: 2 Fitness centres, 2 tennis courts, petanque and table tennis, games room, billiards, Thai cooking classes and library.
Spa/Beauty Services: Tew Son Spa.
Children: Chang Noi Kids Club for children aged 4-12 years.
Board basis: Bed and Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★ Superior.
SALA Phuket Resort and Spa

Phuket, Thailand

Located on pristine Mai Khao beach, SALA Phuket Resort & Spa is a contemporary resort which offers luxurious rooms and facilities. Suites and Villas are decorated in a modern, minimalist style that draws on natural tones and uses the finest materials and finishes - all designed to create a calming personal space for total relaxation.

Enjoy the ultimate in romantic dining at the Rooftop, a unique location where tables seem to ‘float’ on their own reflection pond above the restaurant. Choose to partake in cookery classes, relax by the one of the beachfront swimming pools or workout in the Fitness Centre. SALA Spa is a contemporary haven of equilibrium and wellness where the stresses of everyday life is left behind.

Prices from £1199 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: On Mai Khao Beach on Phuket’s northwest shoreline.
Transfer time: Approximately 20 minutes from Phuket Airport.
Rooms/suites: 79.
Restaurants/bars: 3.
Water activities: 3 swimming pools, snorkelling and diving.
Land activities: Library, golf course nearby.
Spa/Beauty Services: SALA Spa.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★★
The Shore at Katathani
Kata Noi Beach, Phuket, Thailand

Snuggled on a secluded cove at the far end of Kata Noi Beach, The Shore at Katathani is an all pool villa resort that offers a natural fusion of indoor and outdoor living. Villas, carefully designed to offer luxurious seclusion and boundless space, cascade down the forested hillside to the pristine beach; each has a private infinity pool, rain shower and stunning views.

The Harbor Restaurant offers American style breakfasts and a range of international and Thai dishes. In addition to a sparkling infinity pool and fitness centre, guests have use of the facilities at Katathani Phuket Beach Resort. Serenity Spa provides guests with the chance to unwind through holistic treatments in the elegantly appointed private spa villas.

At a glance

Location: On the southwest coast of Phuket Island.
Transfer time: Approximately 1 hour from Phuket Airport.
Rooms/suites: 48.
Restaurants/bars: 3.
Water activities: Swimming pool.
Land activities: Fitness centre and yoga classes plus use of Katathani Beach Resort facilities.
Spa/Beauty Services: Serenity Spa.
Children: Use of Chang Noi Kids Club at Katathani Beach Resort.
Board basis: Bed and Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.

Prices from £2019 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).
Nestled in the exclusive enclave of Laguna Phuket lies this luxurious all-pool villa resort. Laguna Phuket includes three kilometres of sandy shores and offers more than 30 restaurants and bars, all within easy reach by the complimentary inter-resort shuttle of boats that crisscross the lagoon.

From the luxuriously appointed villa interior, step right into the private outdoor pool with jetpool. Next, retreat to a shaded spot on the spacious wooden deck to enjoy the outdoors within the private abode. Visit Saffron, Banyan Tree’s signature restaurant where authentic Thai fare is made using time honoured recipes that promise the palate true gastronomic pleasure. Embrace the soothing culture of centuries-old Ayurveda therapies at Banyan Tree Spa with treatments based on ancient techniques.

Prices from £1889 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: Bang Tao Bay on the northwest coast of Phuket island.
Transfer time: Approximately 20 minutes from Phuket International Airport.
Rooms/suites: 135.
Restaurants/bars: 6.
Water activities: 2 swimming pools, Hobie Cats, body boards, wind surfing and kayaking.
Land activities: Fitness centre, tennis and cycling. 18-Hole golf course nearby.
Spa/Beauty Services: Banyan Tree Spa.
Children: The Turtle Club.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★★
Apsara Beachfront Resort and Villa
Khao Lak, Thailand

Apsara Beachfront Resort and Villa is a nature lovers hideaway boasting white sands, the azure blue Andaman Sea, tropical gardens and is ideally located to explore the region’s attractions, such as Phang Nga Bay and James Bond Island. Guestrooms are spacious and offer modern amenities, some offer a balcony or terrace, some lead directly to the pool and others have their own pool.

Casual lunches, delicious sundowners, informal barbecues and exotic fusion dishes are all served with style at the various restaurants. While away the hours at the free-form swimming pools (plus kid’s pools), one of which offers a fun waterslide and Jacuzzi seat. The professional therapists at Apsara Spa offer a wide range of massages and treatments, within peaceful surroundings.

Prices from £975 per person (Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: Located on Pakarang Beach, Khao Lak.
Transfer time: Approximately 1 hour 30 minutes from Phuket International Airport.
Rooms/suites: 255.
Restaurants/bars: 6.
Water activities: 3 swimming pools, canoeing and kayaking.
Land activities: 2 gyms, Thai cooking classes, Thai boxing, fruit and vegetable carving, table tennis and bicycle rental.
Spa/Beauty Services: Aspara Spa.
Children: Kids activity room, playground and 2 children’s pool areas.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast, Half Board, Full Board & All Inclusive.
Star rating: ★★★★ Superior.
Against a backdrop of lush mountains, between swaying coconut palms on the white sand of Bangsak Beach lies MANATHAI Khao Lak. Enjoy supreme comfort and Thai hospitality under warm tropical skies. Designed with pure indulgence in mind, guests can unwind in the ultimate Thai comfort; connecting with nature in a comfortable Deluxe Garden Room that opens onto beautiful gardens or indulge in a Garden Villa with plunge pool and sun terrace.

Perched along the beach, Pad Thai Restaurant is a unique dining concept serving delicious and authentic Thai stir-fry noodles alongside a selection of gourmet variations of this traditional dish. MANATHAI Kids Club offers a host of activities such as Muay Thai for kids, Thai dancing, Thai batik painting, kite flying and sandcastle making.

Prices from £929 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: On Bangsak Beach.
Transfer time: Approximately 1 hour from Phuket International Airport.
Rooms/suites: 158.
Restaurants/bars: 3.
Water activities: One swimming pool.
Land activities: Fitness centre, yoga, Thai cooking and language classes, volleyball and beach football.
Spa/Beauty Services: Massages available.
Board basis: Bed and Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★
The Sands Khao Lak

Khao Lak, Thailand

A sense of true Thai hospitality awaits guests at The Sands Khao Lak - an oasis of relaxation in the heart of lively Khao Lak. Rooms and suites, in low rise buildings that encircle the resort’s gardens and pools, are designed to envelope guests in a tranquil and natural ambiance whilst the outdoor balcony or terrace enjoys garden or lagoon views.

The Floating Market is the resort’s main restaurant, offering an international menu. Freshly caught seafood, grilled to perfection, is a daily speciality at Talay Restaurant, an ideal spot for beachfront dining. With Thai massage pavilions overlooking the ocean, the Holistic Spa offers spa packages, detox programs and outdoor facilities as well as six private treatment rooms.

Prices from £1035 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: Nang Thong Beach, Khao Lak.
Transfer time: Approximately 1 hour from Phuket International Airport.
Rooms/suites: 316.
Restaurants/bars: 5.
Water activities: 3 swimming pools.
Land activities: Fitness centre, tennis, petanque, yoga, Thai cookery classes.
Spa/Beauty Services: Holistic Spa.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast, Half Board and All Inclusive.
Star rating: ★★★★★ Superior.
Imagine a boutique resort located on 11km of secluded white, sandy beach and surrounded by 5 spectacular national parks. Designed in a classical Thai style with dark wood fittings and colourful splashes of rich silk fabrics, the guest residences are spacious, cool and contemporary and have modern facilities.

Enjoy delicious Thai and seafood delicacies on the beachfront at Edge Restaurant or indulge in Mediterranean cuisine at Ficus Restaurant. The resort’s Imagineering team can create unforgettable experiences - cruise on a luxury boat, canoe through sea caves, try a mountain bike excursion, explore temples at sunrise - anything is possible. Pathways Spa is a key part of The Sarojin’s wellness experience and features open air treatment pavilions with rain showers and couples’ baths.

Prices from £1289 per person (Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

**Location:** Next to a secluded 11km white beach beside the Andaman Sea in Khao Lak.

**Transfer time:** Approximately 1 hour from Phuket International Airport.

**Rooms/suites:** 56.

**Restaurants/bars:** 3.

**Water activities:** Swimming pool, water sports including catamaran, topper sailboat, sea kayaks and windsurfing.

**Land activities:** Lounge area, fitness centre, petanque, mountain bikes and Thai cooking classes.

**Spa/Beauty Services:** Pathways Spa.

**Children:** Children not permitted.

**Board basis:** Bed and Breakfast.

**Star rating:** ★★★★★ Deluxe.
Set within 70 acres of coconut plantations and fragrant gardens, with a half-mile of sparkling shore, Phi Phi Island Village Beach Resort offers a laid back escape.

Traditional Thai-style bungalows, villas and suites offer spacious balconies or terrace whilst the bright and contemporary décor and wooden floors provide a calming retreat that also has all the modern facilities required. There are a variety dining options – casual on the beach or by the pool, or more formal dining at Ruan Thai Restaurant situated on a lush hillside offers exceptional authentic Thai cuisine. Explore Phi Phi Island’s coral formations brilliantly coloured tropical fish on a diving excursion or for the ultimate in laid back indulgence visit Wana Spa to enjoy rejuvenating treatments.

Prices from £1495 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

**Location:** Located at Loh Ba Gao Bay on Koh Phi Phi Don.
**Transfer time:** Approximately 2 hours by road and boat from Phuket International Airport.
**Rooms/suites:** 201.
**Restaurants/bars:** 7.
**Water activities:** Two swimming pools, PADI 5 Star dive centre, snorkelling, kayaking and fishing.
**Land activities:** Fitness centre, tennis, cooking classes and yoga.
**Spa/Beauty Services:** Wana Spa and beauty salon.
**Children:** Children’s pool, waterslide and babysitting.
**Board basis:** Bed and Breakfast.
**Star rating:** ★★★★ Superior.
Nestled amongst the spectacular limestone pinnacles of Phang Nga, is the stunning Six Senses Yao Noi. Here attention to detail and commitment to the environment combine with uncompromising luxury.

The light and airy villas, attended by a butler, boast magnificent views of the bay or plantation and benefit from private infinity-edged pools. The Hilltop Reserve, serving light lunches and Thai dinner menus, offers spectacular views over Phang Nga Bay.

The dedicated Experiences team offers a wide range of water sports as well as PADI certified excursions at some of the finest dive sites around. Using only naturally and ethically produced products, the spa treatment menu promotes traditional Thai healing practices to ensure the senses are balanced.

Prices from £1929 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

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At a glance

**Location:** At Phang Nga Bay.
**Transfer time:** Approximately 20 minutes by car from Phuket Airport followed by a 45-minute speedboat ride.
**Rooms/suites:** 55.
**Restaurants/bars:** 4.
**Water activities:** Swimming pool, private beach and a variety of water sports.
**Land activities:** Tennis court, gymnasium, Thai cooking classes. Boat and bicycle tours, cultural excursions and bicycle rental.
**Spa/Beauty Services:** Six Senses Spa.
**Board basis:** Bed & Breakfast, Half Board and Full Board.
**Star rating:** ★★★★★ Deluxe.
Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas Krabi
Krabi, Thailand

Lush tropical greenery and a 500m beach frontage with superb views of verdant limestone formations define the sumptuous setting of the Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas Krabi, which is accessible only by boat.

Guestrooms offer beautifully spacious living areas and furnished terraces or balconies that create a relaxing ambience. Enjoy a wide selection of cuisine ranging from Thai, tapas, international to barbecued fresh seafood and meats at On The Rocks Restaurant.

Pristine white sands, crystal clear waters and complimentary non-motorised water sports ensure the beach is a playground for activity lovers of all ages. Right at the heart of the resort, Spa Cenvaree is a refuge of wellbeing and relaxation, a place to rejuvenate, unwind and rediscover ones inner balance.

Prices from £1219 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: Located in Ao Nanth.
Transfer time: 45 minutes from Krabi International Airport.
Rooms/suites: 192.
Restaurants/bars: 5.
Water activities: PADI dive centre, sailing, windsurfing, kayaking, two swimming pool.
Land activities: Fitness Centre, Complimentary Wi-Fi.
Spa/Beauty Services: Spa Cenvaree and beauty salon.
Children: Kids Club and children’s pool.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast, Half Board.
Star rating: ★★★★★
The Tubkaak Krabi Boutique Resort
Krabi, Thailand

In a superb location overlooking the sea with inspiring views of the magnificent Hong Islands, guests of The Tubkaak Krabi Boutique Resort will find calm tranquillity surrounded by the stunning natural beauty of Krabi. Nestled around a free-form swimming pool in lush tropical gardens, guestrooms offer uniquely designed outdoor bathrooms with a sunken bath and separate shower and wood panelling.

The Arundina, located on the beachfront and surrounded by trees and a charming pond, is the perfect setting to enjoy classic Thai dishes created by experienced chefs. Intersperse lazy days with excursions to the local beauty spots that have made Krabi famous. L’escape Spa menu blends Oriental and traditional Thai therapeutic healing with modern pampering and includes treatments that deliver health benefits.

Prices from £1315 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: On Tubkaak Beach overlooking the magnificent Hong Islands Archipelago.
Transfer time: Approximately 45 minutes from Krabi Airport.
Rooms/suites: 59.
Restaurants/bars: 3.
Water activities: Sea kayaking, 1 swimming pool, Jacuzzi.
Land activities: Library, fitness centre, yoga, mountain biking, cookery classes.
Spa/Beauty Services: L’Escape Spa.
Board basis: Bed and Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★★
Rayavadee’s setting on the edge of Krabi’s National Marine Park at the heart of the stunning Phra Nang Peninsula perfectly blends lush foliage, limestone cliffs, white sand beaches and the emerald waters of the Andaman Sea.

The spacious Pavilions and Villas are dotted throughout tropical gardens and coconut groves and feature stylish details with polished wood, richly coloured fabrics and handcrafted details throughout. The Grotto nestles under an ancient limestone cliff and the perfect spot to enjoy a leisurely lunch or watch the sunset in a casual beachside setting. Cultural offerings include Thai cooking classes, batik printing, flower garland making and Thai fruit carving classes. The Rayavadee Spa’s therapies draw on ancient Thai healing traditions and a philosophy of well-being.

Prices from £1935 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: On the edge of Krabi’s National Marine Park at the heart of the stunning Phra Nang Peninsula.
Transfer time: Krabi International Airport is 25 minutes drive to the pier, then a 15 minute boat journey.
Rooms/suites: 102.
Restaurants/bars: 4.
Water activities: Swimming pool, canoeing, and wind surfing.
Land activities: Tennis, squash, fitness room, Thai cooking classes and guided hikes.
Spa/Beauty Services: The Rayavadee Spa.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast, Half Board and Full Board.
Star rating: ★★★★★
Amidst 100 acres of tropical vegetation, and with direct access to over 900 metres of pristine sandy beach, the sights and sounds of nature are all around this elegant beach resort.

Guestrooms are fitted with polished teak wood flooring and are dressed in rich, Thai fabrics with balconies offering views of the garden, bay or partial sea views. The elegantly styled Seven Seas Wine Bar and Restaurant features European cuisine, with a show kitchen. Alternatively, watch the sun set over Kan Tiang Bay. For water sports lovers, canoes, windsurfing boards, paddle boards and sailing boats are available free of charge. Qualified and experienced spa therapists are ready to provide world-class treatments and services to ensure that a stay at Pimalai is unforgettable.

Prices from £1309 per person (Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: On Koh Lanta.
Transfer time: Approximately 1 hour by the resort boat from Krabi.
Rooms/suites: 121.
Restaurants/bars: 6.
Water activities: Swimming pool, canoeing, windsurfing, sailing boats, boogie boards.
Land activities: Bicycles, fitness room, tennis, library and Thai cooking classes.
Spa/Beauty Services: Pimalai Spa.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★★
A glimpse of Myanmar

Bordered by China, Laos, Thailand, Bangladesh and India, Myanmar is sprinkled with golden pagodas and warm welcomes. It’s location between China and India has heavily influenced its culture, blending elements of both with traditional Myanmar traits and Buddhist beliefs to create a unique way of life.

Discover colonial-style Yangon, filled with the smell of spices from the stalls lining the streets and the famous Shwedagon Pagoda. On the west coast, Ngapali Beach, named after Naples, boasts untouched white sand beaches lined with palm trees - perfect for serene relaxation. Head north to Bagan, home to a traditional way of life, to hear the monks chant as the sun rises, and to Inle Lake to discover the famous leg-rowing fishermen and extraordinary floating markets. Climb to the top of Mandalay Hill for a birds-eye view of the bustling streets of Mandalay, set on the banks of the Ayeyarwady River.

Beautiful and culturally rich, Northern Myanmar is home to Mandalay, the country’s second largest city, awe-inspiring Bagan and tranquil Inle Lake. Discover ornate pagodas, colourful markets and endless trekking opportunities while exploring this relatively untouched slice of Asia.

Head to Southern Myanmar to discover Yangon, the country’s commercial and spiritual heart where colonial-era buildings surround the famous Shwedagon Pagoda. After spending time travelling around Myanmar, Ngapali Beach, on the west coast, is the perfect place to unwind.

Rudyard Kipling’s interpretation of this magical land is correct, this is “quite unlike any land you know about”.

Destination Data

Location: Bordering Thailand, India, Laos, Bangladesh and China
Local Time: GMT + 6.5 hours
Flying time: Approximately 14 hours from the UK and Ireland
Visa: Required to be arranged in advance of travel for UK and Irish passport holders
Currency: Kyat (MMK) ($US widely accepted)
Vaccinations: Recommended, please contact your doctor
Electricity: 220 - 240 volts

When to Visit

Temperatures cool to pleasant levels and rains stop between December and February, making this the best time to visit Myanmar. From March to May temperatures soar, while the monsoon season falls between May and September which can make some roads impassable.
Belmond Orcaella

Myanmar is one of the last ‘undiscovered’ lands which will transport you to a bygone era. Every twist and turn of the Ayeyarwady and Chindwin Rivers reveals yet another hidden treasure. Sail by remote villages, dense jungle, world famous temples, pagodas and magnificent landscapes. Visiting key towns and sights as well as lesser known gems will ensure that no aspect of this spellbinding land is missed.

This river cruiser can accommodate 50 guests and the four decks provide facilities expected of a much larger ship including a swimming pool, fitness centre, massage and beauty salon and cultural entertainment. Alternatively guests can simply be overwhelmed by the awe-inspiring scenery. The restaurant serves classic Asian and European cuisine, expertly prepared using fresh ingredients collected on the journey. Relax with a cocktail as you recline on the observation deck, watching this bewitching land slip by. The twenty five spacious and luxurious cabins have floor to ceiling windows ensuring that neither the largest temple nor the smallest waving child slips by unnoticed.

Belmond Road to Mandalay

Discover the mythical landscape and the serene country of Myanmar with a sail on the mighty Ayeyarwady River. Belmond Road to Mandalay is an established river cruiser, transporting discerning travellers back in time to discover this breathtaking land that time has forgotten.

This elegant ship blends luxury with traditional décor as it navigates the small fishing boats and barges along the river. The forty three cabins are well equipped, very comfortable and offer large picture windows. Carefully prepared Burmese and International specialities are served by warm and charming Burmese staff in the restaurant. When not watching the world glide by from the observation deck, a swimming pool and fitness and wellbeing area may keep you occupied.

The combination of on-board luxury and relaxation with enthralling sights and landscapes will ensure that this is the ultimate river cruise.

The Ayeyarwady Experience (Downstream)
7 nights Bagan – Yangon
Prices from £3029 per person

Jewels of the Ayeyarwady (Upstream)
8 nights Yangon – Bagan
Prices from £3029 per person

Gorges of the Far North
11 nights Mandalay – Bhamo – Bagan
Prices from £3765 per person

Discovering the Chindwin River
12 nights Mandalay – Chindwin – Bagan
Prices from £3765 per person

Prices based on two persons sharing a Deluxe Cabin on a Full Board basis, including soft drinks, local beer and house wine during meals. Prices exclude international flights and pre or post journey accommodation and transfers.

Highlights of Myanmar
3 nights Mandalay – Bagan
Prices from £1325 per person

Images of a Golden Land
4 nights Bagan – Mandalay
Prices from £1495 per person

Ayeyarwady Adventure
7 nights Mandalay – Bagan – Mandalay
Prices from £1935 per person

Prices based on two persons sharing a Superior Cabin on a Full Board basis, including soft drinks, local beer and house wine during meals. Prices exclude international flights and pre or post journey accommodation and transfers.

Why not extend your visit to Myanmar with pre and post cruise stays or a tailor made private tour? Please contact our reservations team for inspiring options.
Belmond Cruises in Myanmar (Burma)
To travel in Myanmar is to experience a place unlike any other. Largely untouched by tourism due to years of political unrest, Myanmar has recently opened its doors to allow travellers an insight into this surreal, beautiful and enchanting country, largely unchanged since Rudyard Kipling visited in 1898.

A melting pot of cultural diversity, there are British Colonial, Indian and Nepalese influences as well as a strong sense of Buddhist spirituality. The land itself is diverse and this tour will guide you through the cultural and scenic highlights of the country, from the thousands of sacred pagodas and temples of Bagan, the awe inspiring Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon decorated with 60 tons of pure gold, the mystical Mount Popa and the serene Lake Inle with its famous leg rowers. Experience colourful markets, picturesque villages, revered temples and pagodas, floating villages and gentle, welcoming people, all in a land that time has forgotten.

Myanmar is still largely underdeveloped for tourism, quality accommodation is in high demand and therefore prices can increase with little or no warning and your first choice of accommodation may not always be available.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Fly to Yangon on an overnight flight.

Day 2: Yangon
You will be met on arrival at Yangon International Airport and transferred to your chosen hotel for a two night stay.

Meals included: Dinner.

Day 3: Yangon
After breakfast enjoy an introductory half day tour of Yangon taking in the old colonial-style city centre and the gilded Sule Pagoda, dating back over 2,000 years. Proceed to Bogyoke (Scott’s) Market with a visit to Shwedagon Pagoda, one of the world’s most spectacular religious monuments. The golden dome of the Shwedagon Pagoda rises 98 meters above its base and is covered with 60 tons of pure gold. Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner.

Day 4: Yangon - Bagan
Transfer to Yangon Airport for a flight to Bagan. Upon arrival, proceed on a sightseeing tour, taking in a busy local market and a diverse selection of the most important pagodas and temples such as Shwezigon Pagoda, Ku Byauk Gyi and Ananda Temple. In the afternoon the sightseeing continues with visits to Manuha Temple, built in Mon style in 1059, Nenbaya Temple, a unique sandstone monument that is said to have been the palace of King Manuha and Myingaba Gu Byauk Gyi Temple (under the protection of UNESCO). Observe a sunset in the vicinity of Bagan’s ancient monuments. Overnight at your chosen hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner.

Day 5: Full day at leisure.

Full day at leisure to enjoy the hotel facilities or explore the locality. You may choose to hire a bicycle to explore some off the beaten track pagodas or alternatively, hire a horse cart for the morning to visit local markets and buy authentic handmade crafts.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner.

(continued over...)
The Golden Land of Myanmar (Burma)

13 day, 12 night private tour
Day 6: Bagan
Take an optional early morning balloon flight over the Bagan temples. (Only available from October to March, cost not included).

Enjoy a full day exploring the countryside around Bagan (exact itinerary is subject to road conditions). Visit Mount Popa, home to Myanmar’s intriguing ‘nats’ (spirits). The steps and path climb steeply up Mount Popa – an energetic climb rewarded by fabulous views from the top. Continue on to Kyaukpadaung, visiting the local market and stopping at a local village. In the afternoon, drive to Salay to visit Yokesone Monastery which is the oldest surviving wooden monastery hall built on 154 teak posts with beautiful wood carvings decorating the outer walls. Continue to Payathonzu, a complex of three shrines with mural paintings from the Bagan period, and see Man Paya - a large lacquer Buddha image, said to date from the 13th century. Return to Bagan through Chauk, stopping at the colourful local market before continuing past the old Burma Oil installations (‘nodding donkeys’), en-route.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner.

Day 7: Bagan - Mandalay
After breakfast, transfer to Bagan Airport for a flight to Mandalay. Arrive in Mandalay and transfer to the jetty to take a boat trip to Mingun, site of a brick pagoda towering 50 metres above the Ayeyarwady River and home to the world’s largest intact bell. In the afternoon, visit Mahamuni Pagoda, home to Mandalay’s holiest Buddha statue, Shwenandaw Monastery (Golden Palace Monastery), an ancient wooden building with intricate carvings, which was once King Mindon’s home. Continue to see the ‘world’s largest book’, being the Buddhist Scriptures inscribed on marble slabs, at Kuthodaw Pagoda. Visit Kyaukdawgyi Pagoda to see a large Buddha statue carved out of a single block of local marble. Enjoy spectacular views at sunset from Mandalay Hill, where there are interesting glass-studded temples. Overnight at your chosen hotel for two nights.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner.

Day 8: Mandalay
Enjoy a full day at leisure. You may wish to experience the daily alms giving to the Buddhist monks – this will involve an early rise.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner.

Day 9: Mandalay – Inle Lake
Transfer to Mandalay Airport for a flight to Heho after an early breakfast. Drive from Heho airport down into the valley to Nyaungshwe on the edge of Inle Lake, stopping on the way to visit Shwe Yan Pyay Monastery. Board your own local boat to take you to the hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Overnight at Villa Inle Resort for three nights.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner.

Day 10: Inle Lake
Explore one of the five day markets (on market day only), gaining an insight into the lifestyle of the ethnic Pa-O, Danu and Intha inhabitants who come to these markets to sell their goods. During today’s excursion by boat on picturesque Inle Lake, see the famous leg rowers, the typical floating gardens where fruit and vegetables are grown, local methods of fishing and village life. A highlight is visiting the traditional village of Paukpar, with its neat rows of bamboo houses, with the possibility of a visit to a family for Shan tea. In the afternoon, visit Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda, the holiest religious site in southern Shan State. Stop to see some traditional handicrafts - silk weaving on wooden handlooms in Inpawkon village, a cheroot workshop and a blacksmith shop. Continue by boat to visit Nga Phe Kyaung Monastery, one of the oldest monasteries on the lake with its large wooden meditation hall and 200 year old Buddha statues. At the hotel, watch the sunset over enchanting Inle Lake.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner.

Day 11: Inle Lake
After breakfast take a long-tailed boat across the lake to Indaing at the western end of Inle for one of the most scenic trips on the Lake. Passing through the busy village of Yawarna, enter a long canal towards Indaing Jetty with farmers cultivating their land on either side under the backdrop of the Shan Hills. After disembarking, walk through Indaing village to reach the 14-18th century pagoda ruins of Nyaung Ohak; many pagodas here remain charmingly unrenovated. A covered walkway leads up to Shwe Inn Thein Paya, a complex of weather beaten zedi; some sadly reconstructed although the views from the top make it worth the ascent. Returning to the river jetty, take the long-tailed boat back along the canal to the Lake. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner.

Day 12: Inle Lake - Yangon
Today, leave the hotel by boat and transfer to Heho Airport for a flight to Yangon then transfer to your chosen hotel for a two night stay. In the afternoon drive to the famous Strand Road for a walking tour. Start at the Yangon River around the busy harbour area. Cross into Chinatown, stopping to see Chinese medicine shops, a Chinese Temple and the colourful market. Pass the old Moseah Yeshua Synagogue before entering the Indian Quarter with small side-roads full of shops selling Indian spices. Turn into Shwe Bontha, perhaps the most photogenic of all streets, with its leafy sidewalks, pavement tea-shops and magnificent colonial buildings. Here is where all the merchants buy and sell gold. Walking through Mahabandoola Garden, you glimpse Sule Pagoda, City Hall, the impressive High Court and the Myanmar Port Authority building before arriving at the Strand Hotel, itself a stunning colonial building, concluding your walk and enjoying a well-deserved refreshment. Transfer back to your hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner.

Day 13: Depart Myanmar
After breakfast, transfer to Yangon International Airport for your departure flight.

Meals included: Breakfast.
Tour Hotels

Classic
Yangon..............................Savoy Hotel or similar
Bagan...............................Bagan Lodge or similar
Mandalay..........................Rupar Mandalar Resort or similar
Inle Lake.........................Villa Inle Resort or similar

Premium
Yangon..............................The Governor’s Residence or similar
Bagan...............................Aureum Palace Spa Resort or similar
Mandalay..........................Mandalay Hill Resort or similar
Inle Lake.........................Villa Inle Resort or similar

Prices from £3745 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Classic accommodation.

Prices from £4799 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Premium accommodation.

Domestic airfares are subject to change without notice so prices may vary. Price includes accommodation and meals as specified in itinerary, entrance fees, all transfers and full program as specified, transportation in a private air-conditioned vehicle with an English-speaking chauffeur guide. Price includes return scheduled flights from London and all airport taxes.

Please refer to pages 130 – 135 for hotel information

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
Belmond Governor’s Residence
Yangon, Myanmar

Located in the Embassy Quarter, Belmond Governor’s Residence conjures up a bygone era while offering every modern pleasure. Fan-cooled verandas and teak armchairs invite guests to step inside and discover this timeless, luxurious hotel which is set in verdant gardens dotted with lotus pools. The 48 spacious rooms are a haven of tranquility and are decorated with carved teak and luxurious silks that combine to make the rooms both fresh and timeless.

Enjoy the exotic cuisine of Myanmar, with its subtly blended spices, or choose from a wide selection of European specialities in the resort’s restaurants and bars. Burmese Curry Table invites guests to enjoy fragrant local curries whilst The Kipling Bar, named after Rudyard Kipling, offers a relaxing atmosphere in which to sample fine wines, signature cocktails, or afternoon tea.

Enjoy a cooling dip in the swimming pool, or discover a range of spa treatments that rejuvenate the body while relaxing the mind at The Governor’s Oasis Spa. Situated approximately 30 minutes from Yangon International Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★
Bagan Lodge

Bagan, Myanmar

Bagan Lodge is a contemporary, boutique hotel on the outskirts of New Bagan and is beautifully designed with an alluring fusion of Burmese and contemporary décor. Ideally situated for exploring the temples and pagodas of Bagan, the lodge is within walking distance of Dhammayangyi - Bagan’s largest pagoda. A blend of classic Burmese design and modern décor, the 86 rooms and suites are finished with gleaming teak floors and handmade furniture. Private balconies allow guests to enjoy the morning sun or the sound of chanting monks in the distance as the sun sets over the lush tropical gardens.

Tiffin Box, the resort’s open-air restaurant serves authentic Burmese cuisine as well as international favourites, with an emphasis on fresh, quality produce. The outdoor pool provides the ideal sanctuary to cool off from the afternoon heat, whilst The Spa provides guests with an extensive range of massage and beauty treatments. Situated approximately 20 minutes from Bagan Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★

Aureum Palace

Bagan, Myanmar

Set within the Bagan Archaeological Preservation Zone, amongst the ancient temples of The Kingdom of Bagan, the expansive Aureum Palace Hotel boasts 27 acres of tropical landscaped gardens. The 116 spacious and contemporary rooms and villas are decorated with quality antiques, rich fabrics and local handicrafts.

Xanadu features continental and Asian menus or for something a little different, experience some of Myanmar’s traditional cuisine. As the best way to see Bagan is by bicycle, the resort offers complimentary hire. After a busy day exploring, relax by the swimming pool or at Aureum Nature Spa. Situated approximately 5 minutes from Bagan Airport.

Star rating: ★★★ Superior.
Rupar Mandalar Resort
*Mandalay, Myanmar*

Situated in extensive landscaped gardens, the Rupar Mandalar Resort offers guests a warm welcome. The resort is ideally situated for exploring the many cultural delights of Mandalay including Kuthodaw Pagoda and Mandalay Palace. The 46 spacious rooms and suites are warmly decorated with traditional wood furnishings and feature modern comforts.

Enjoy a culinary journey across Thailand, China and Europe or indulge in traditional Myanmar dishes at the restaurant. Relax by the swimming pool after a day sightseeing or indulge in a wellness therapy at the spa which offers a range of relaxing or rejuvenating treatments. Situated approximately 50 minutes from Mandalay International Airport.

*Star rating: ★★★★

Mandalay Hill Resort Hotel
*Mandalay, Myanmar*

With panoramic views of a myriad of pagodas and the Royal Palace and its beautiful moat, Mandalay Hill Resort is perfectly placed within this historic city. The 206 elegantly decorated rooms and suites provide guests with a taste of paradise. From each room, experience spectacular views of Mandalay Hill, the Royal Palace, the famous Irrawaddy River or the city of Mandalay.

At Kinsana Garden Theatre, guests can enjoy a cultural show whilst sampling dishes from an international buffet and barbecue. Relax in the swimming pool or unwind at Mandalar Spa. Situated approximately 1 hour from Mandalay International Airport.

*Star rating: ★★★★

Villa Inle Resort & Spa
*Inle Lake, Myanmar*

Sit back, relax and enjoy the tranquility at this boutique eco-resort, situated on the peaceful banks of the scenic Inle Lake. Watch fisherman glide on the lake, water buffalos cooling off and the native birds forage on the wetland. The 27 villas are finished with contemporary Burmese furniture and local artwork.

The restaurant serves a selection of authentic Shan, Western, Myanmar and Inthar cuisine. Enjoy a refreshing dip in the swimming pool or rejuvenate at the Spa. Situated approximately 1 hour’s drive from Heho Airport, followed by a 20 minute boat ride.

*Star rating: ★★★★

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134 Myanmar
Myanmar Beach Extension

Extend your stay in this magical land with a relaxing beach stay. Discover pristine white sands, clear blue seas and mouthwatering fresh seafood at Ngapali Beach, reached by a short flight from Yangon. Unwind with a massage on the beach or snorkel off the palm-fringed beach; with 15 miles of coast here there’s plenty of space to stretch out.

The Sandoway Resort

Ngapali Beach, Myanmar

Nestled amongst coconut palms. Sandoway Resort boasts a fabulous location on 450m of beach frontage. Each architectural detail embodies the charisma of Myanmar, blending in harmony with the environment. Each of the 59 rooms, cottages and villas utilise local materials and are lovingly furnished with traditional ornaments.

The restaurant overlooks the beach and specialises in Mediterranean and Asian cuisine. Facilities include a swimming pool, library, cinema, bicycle rental and the Sandoway Spa. Situated approximately 15 minutes from Thandwe Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★ Superior

Ngapali Bay Villas & Spa

Ngapali Bay, Myanmar

Embracing craft and tradition, with local white marble, teak and sandstone, this resort is a stylish mix of the traditional and the contemporary. Perfectly situated on an unspoiled natural beach, Ngapali Bay Villas and Spa is a masterpiece of Burmese art and culture with a patchwork backdrop of paddy fields and forested hills. The 32 elegant, thatched roof, high ceilinged villas have been crafted with local materials and feature ocean views.

Tamarind Restaurant, where east meets west, is the ideal place to enjoy a lovely meal while watching the fishing boats return after a day at sea. Lounge by the swimming pool or take a walk along the white sandy beach. Enjoy the peaceful and tranquil surroundings of the Frangipani Spa where tailor-made treatments focus on holistic healing using products made from locally sourced ingredients. Situated approximately 20 minutes from Thandwe Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★
A glimpse of Vietnam

Vietnam is a country of extraordinary extremes and distinctive experiences, from kayaking in Ha Long Bay, marvelling at the 14th Century Cham ruins at My Son and exploring ornate temples, to relaxing on pristine beaches, exploring the ancient cobblestone streets of Hoi An and strolling by the modern buildings of Ho Chi Minh City.

This is a land filled with rugged mountains, lush forests, dense jungles and verdant rice paddies dotted with bicycle-thronged cities and peaceful, rustic villages. Whether touring this fascinating country or simply enjoying the sunshine and beaches, Vietnam will not disappoint.

With towering mountains, cascading paddy fields and world-famous limestone karsts, it’s easy to see why Northern Vietnam has some of the country’s most beautiful scenery. Sapa lies in the northern Hoàng Liên Sơn Mountains and overlooks the terraced rice fields of the Muong Hoa Valley. Hill tribes, such as the Hmong, Tay and Dao, make up much of the town’s local population. Revel in the buzz of Hanoi, sampling delicious local delicacies in street markets. Next, head east to explore picturesque Ha Long Bay and its islands, either from the water in a kayak or wooden junk, or from above on a scenic flight or helicopter tour.

Central Vietnam is home to many of the country’s cultural highlights. Explore Hue, the imperial capital of the Nguyen Kings, and discover ancient cities that straddle the Perfume River. Further south, Hoi An occupies a scenic location along the banks of the Thu Bon River, just north of the crumbling ruins of the UNESCO World Heritage site My Son.

With endless beaches and popular coastal towns, there’s plenty to discover in Southern Vietnam. Ruins of the Kingdom of Champa dot the coast at Phan Rang and Nha Trang, the Cu Chi Tunnels reveal a secret underground world, while the Mekong Delta offers an insight into rural Vietnamese life.

Phu Quoc is the largest island in Vietnam, located in the Gulf of Thailand, and offers guests excellent beaches, modern amenities, impeccable service and luxurious surroundings.

Destination Data

Location: Southeast Asia, bordered by China, Laos and Cambodia
Local Time: GMT + 7 hours
Flying time: Approximately 12 hours from UK and Ireland
Visa: Currently British Citizen passport holders can enter Vietnam once for up to 15 days without a visa, (subject to change). For other types of British nationality, Irish nationals or for those staying longer than 15 days, a visa or an e-visa is required before entering Vietnam.
Currency: Vietnamese Dong (US$ widely accepted)
Vaccinations: Recommended, please contact your doctor
Electricity: 220/240 volts

When to Visit

April to June is usually the best time to travel throughout the whole country, before the temperatures hit their peak. July and August are peak months with both accommodation prices and temperatures, before the monsoon brings downpours from the end of August until November. Clear skies and sunshine are the norm between December and March, although temperatures can cool towards the north.
Vietnam Encompassed
10 day, 9 night private tour

Explore the sights of Vietnam’s main cities and travel up the stunning coastline through busy villages and verdant countryside.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Ho Chi Minh City
Upon arrival in Ho Chi Minh City you will be escorted to your hotel for a two night stay. Overnight at your chosen hotel for two nights.

Meals included: None

Day 2: Ho Chi Minh City
This morning visit the infamous Cu Chi Tunnels, the vast underground network of tunnels built as a defence against the French, then later expanded during the American war. After lunch, take a tour to discover the contrasts of this bustling city. Amongst the grand old buildings, encounter colourful markets and of course, an endless stream of bicycles, cyclos and motorbikes. Visit Reunification Hall, Notre Dame Cathedral, the War Remnants Museum and the Jade Emperor Pagoda.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 3: Ho Chi Minh City – Hue
Visit Cholon, with its impressive Thien Hau Temple and Binh Tay market. Fly from Ho Chi Minh City to Hue after lunch. Overnight at your chosen hotel for one night.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 4: Hue – Da Nang/Hoi An
Take a boat trip to Thien Mu Pagoda, followed by a visit to Tu Duc Tomb. Travel to Danang/Hoi An. Travel over the spectacular Hai Van Pass to Hoi An/Da Nang, taking in the beautiful scenery. Overnight at your chosen hotel for two nights.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch.

Day 5: Da Nang/Hoi An
Explore the pretty UNESCO World Heritage listed Old Town of Hoi An. Shop for souvenirs in the boutiques and see the 400 year old Japanese Bridge.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch.

Day 6: Da Nang/Hoi An – Hanoi
Fly to Hanoi. Enjoy an afternoon walking tour around the tree-lined streets, resplendent with French colonial architecture, taking in the Ancient Quarter. In the early evening, visit the theatre to experience the ancient and unique artform of water puppetry. Enjoy dinner at one of Hanoi’s finest restaurants. Overnight at your chosen hotel for two nights.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 7: Hanoi
Visit the historical relics of Chem village and Ve village market. In the afternoon, visit Ba Dinh Square, the One Pillar Pagoda and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Thang Long Royal Citadel, the Opera House and the Temple of Literature.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 8: Hanoi - Halong Bay
Enjoy a cruise on-board a traditional junk boat, sailing around the stunning limestone outcroppings, cliffs and coves in Halong Bay, often called Vietnam’s eighth wonder of the world. Overnight on a traditional junk boat.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 9: Halong Bay – Hanoi
Enjoy the sunrise over Halong Bay before travelling back to Hanoi. Overnight at your chosen hotel for one night.

Meals included: Breakfast, Brunch

Day 10: Depart Hanoi
Enjoy your last morning at leisure. Transfer to the airport is included if required.

Meals included: None
Tour Hotels

Classic
Ho Chi Minh City..........Caravelle Hotel
Hue..............................La Residence Hotel
Hoi An........................Boutique Hoi An Resort & Spa
Halong Bay.....................Orchid Cruise
Hanoi.............................Hotel de l’Opera

Premium
Ho Chi Minh City............Park Hyatt Hotel
Hue..................................La Residence Hotel
Hoi An..............................Fusion Maia Resort
Halong Bay......................Paradise Luxury Cruise
Hanoi..............................Sofitel Legend Metropole Hotel

Please refer to pages 142, 144, 151 and 153 for hotel information.

Prices from £2039 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Classic accommodation.

Prices from £2685 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Premium accommodation.

Domestic airfares are subject to change without notice so prices may vary. Price includes accommodation and meals as specified in itinerary, entrance fees, all transfers and full program as specified, transportation in a private air-conditioned vehicle with an English-speaking chauffeur guide. Price excludes International airfare. All travelling times are estimated and can be influenced by traffic volumes, road conditions, local events and weather.

If Only… in conjunction with our local Destination Management Company offers a selection of tours in Vietnam which can be tailor-made to suit your requirements including additional night stays and excursions. Other hotels are available at a supplement. Please ask our destination experts for more details.

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
Discover the lakes, parks and colonial mansions of historical Hanoi and contrast with the beautiful countryside and Hmong hilltribe villages around Sapa.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Hanoi
Upon arrival in Hanoi International Airport you will be escorted to your hotel for a two night stay. Explore the vibrant railway side life on a walking tour followed by a visit to Hoan Kiem Lake to join the locals for their evening stroll. Overnight at your chosen hotel for two nights.

Day 2: Hanoi
Explore the city sights including Ba Dinh Square, Ho Chi Minh Museum, Thang Long Royal Citadel, the Opera House before walking around Hanoi’s energetic Old Quarter.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 3: Hanoi – Overnight to Lao Cai
Take a Vietnamese cookery class before boarding the overnight train to Lao Cai.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 4: Lao Cai – Sapa
Enjoy the morning at leisure to explore the colourful market before visiting Cat Cat Village and trekking through rice terraces and rainforest.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 5: Sapa
Enjoy a full day trekking through beautiful countryside and Hmong villages, taking in stunning views of Fansipan Peak.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 6: Sapa – Hanoi
Visit one of the many lively local markets where hill tribe people, resplendent in their traditional headdresses, meet to buy, sell and socialise. Take the overnight train back to Hanoi.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 7: Hanoi – Halong Bay
On arrival at Hanoi train station, transfer to Hanoi International Airport for a flight to Hai Phong for an overnight cruise onboard a traditional junk boat on beautiful Halong Bay.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 8: Halong Bay - Hanoi
Witness the sunrise over Halong Bay before travelling back to Hanoi International Airport for your onward flight.

Meals included: Breakfast and Brunch

Tour Hotels

Classic
Hanoi..........................Hotel de l’Opera
Sapa..............................Victoria Sapa Resort
Halong Bay.....................Orchid Cruise

Premium
Hanoi..............................Sofitel Legend Metropole Hotel
Sapa..............................Victoria Sapa Resort
Halong Bay.....................Orchid Cruise

Please refer to pages 142, 144 and 153 for hotel information.

Prices from £1445 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Classic accommodation.

Prices from £1525 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Premium accommodation.

Price includes accommodation and meals as specified in itinerary, entrance fees, all transfers and full program as specified, transportation in a private air-conditioned vehicle with an English-speaking chauffeur guide. Price excludes international airfare. All travelling times are estimated and can be influenced by traffic volumes, road conditions, local events and weather.

If Only… in conjunction with our local Destination Management Company offers a selection of tours in Vietnam which can be tailor-made to suit your requirements including additional night stays and excursions. Other hotels are available at a supplement. Please ask our destination experts for more details.

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
**South Vietnam**
8 day, 7 night private tour

Explore the bustling metropolis of Ho Chi Minh City and the Mekong Delta villages and markets before retreating to the beach resort of Phu Quoc for some relaxation.

**Tour Itinerary**

**Day 1: Arrive Ho Chi Minh City**
Upon arrival at Ho Chi Minh City International Airport you will be escorted to your hotel for a two night stay. Remainder of day at leisure. Optional excursions are available. Overnight at your chosen hotel for two nights.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

**Day 2: Ho Chi Minh City**
Synonymous with the Vietnam War and a testament to the determined spirit of the Vietnamese, the underground network of tunnels at Cu Chi is a fascinating day trip out of the city. Return to the city to tour the Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral and the Jade Emperor Pagoda.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

**Day 3: Ho Chi Minh City – Cai Be – Can Tho**
Travel out of Ho Chi Minh City before boarding a traditional motorised sampan boat cruise along the Mekong Delta, experiencing riverlife and bustling markets. Travel by road to Can Tho. Overnight at your chosen hotel for two nights.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

**Day 4: Can Tho**
Take a sampan cruise to Cai Rang floating market. Later, drive through the lush countryside to visit Bang Lang Stork Sanctuary, home to 150,000 storks. Travel back to Can Tho.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

**Day 5: Can Tho – Phu Quoc**
Fly from Can Tho airport to Phu Quoc Airport. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure in this beach resort. Overnight at your chosen hotel for three nights.

Meals included: Breakfast

**Day 8: Phu Quoc – Departure**
Depart Phu Quoc Airport for your next destination.

Meals included: Breakfast

**Tour Hotels**

**Classic**

| Ho Chi Minh City | Caravelle Hotel |
| Can Tho          | Victoria Can Tho Resort |
| Phu Quoc         | Salinda Phu Quoc Resort & Spa |

**Premium**

| Ho Chi Minh City | Park Hyatt Hotel |
| Can Tho          | Victoria Can Tho Resort |
| Phu Quoc         | JW Marriott Phu Quoc Resort |

Please refer to pages 142, 150 and 151 for hotel information.

**Prices from £1215 per person**
*(Based on two persons sharing)* in Classic accommodation.

**Prices from £1755 per person**
*(Based on two persons sharing)* in Premium accommodation.

Domestic airfares are subject to change without notice so prices may vary. Price includes accommodation and meals as specified in itinerary, entrance fees, all transfers and full program as specified, transportation in a private air-conditioned vehicle with an English-speaking chauffeur guide. Price excludes international airfare. All traveling times are estimated and can be influenced by traffic volumes, road conditions, local events and weather.

If Only... in conjunction with our local Destination Management Company offers a selection of tours in Vietnam which can be tailor-made to suit your requirements including additional night stays and excursions. Other hotels are available at a supplement. Please ask our destination experts for more details.

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
Vietnam Tour Hotels

Boutique Hoi An Resort
Hoi An, Vietnam

Enjoy outstanding sea views, discover authentic Vietnamese hospitality and explore the rich heritage of Hoi An in the contemporary surroundings of Boutique Hoi An Resort. This colonial style building contains stylish, bright, modern interiors and offers a variety of facilities and services.

Star rating: ★★★★☆

La Residence Hotel & Spa
Hue

This charming art deco boutique hotel is situated on the banks of the Perfume River, overlooking the UNESCO World Heritage site of the former Imperial Citadel. Guestrooms evoke a Colonial charm whilst offering modern comforts. Flavours are brought to life by passionate chefs at the excellent restaurant.

Star rating: ★★★★★

Hotel de l’Opera
Hanoi

Ideally situated for exploring Hanoi, this French Colonial style hotel is located close to the Hanoi Opera House. Sophisticated and glamorous, the hotel offers 107 modern guestrooms and suites all with views over the city, opera house or courtyard. There are two contemporary restaurants offering inspiring Vietnamese and International cuisine.

Star rating: ★★★★★

Victoria Can Tho Resort
Can Tho, Vietnam

Blending colonial-style architecture with the natural beauty of the river, this quiet retreat lies on the banks of the Hau River, set amidst exotic gardens. There are 92 rooms and suites, all designed with wood flooring, Vietnamese decor and balconies offering spectacular views of the river, pool or of the garden.

Star rating: ★★★★☆

Victoria Sapa Resort & Spa
Sapa, Vietnam

Nested amongst mountainous slopes, Victoria Sapa Resort & Spa is built in the style of a traditional chalet in perfect harmony with the natural scenery and overlooks Indochina’s highest peak, Mount Fanxipan. The 77 cozy rooms feature private terrace, wood flooring.

Star rating: ★★★★☆
**Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi**  
*Hanoi, Vietnam*

Located steps from the Opera House in Hanoi’s French Quarter, the famous Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi transports guests into the opulence of a bygone era. Retreat to some of the finest heritage accommodation in the historic Metropole Wing, or discover the Neo Classical luxury accommodation of the Opera Wing. The 364 elegant guest rooms feature bright interiors and beautifully finished timber floors.

Authentic Vietnamese cuisine can be sampled in the Spices Garden and Angelina is one of Hanoi’s favourite Italian culinary addresses. The stately swimming pool offers carefree relaxation in sophisticated surrounds whilst Le Spa du Metropole is a calm sanctuary of refined style where Spa rituals combine east and west. Situated approximately 40 minutes from Noi Bai International Airport.

*Star rating: ★★★★★*

Prices from £195 per person per night including breakfast.

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**InterContinental Hanoi Westlake**  
*Hanoi, Vietnam*

The InterContinental Hanoi Westlake is located on the peaceful waters of the largest lake in the city and is adjacent to the famous 800-year-old Golden Lotus (Kim Lien) Pagoda and is ideally situated just minutes from the Old Quarter. The 377 guest rooms and suite’s dark wood furniture and sunset-inspired accents are beautifully combined with modern Vietnamese design.

Referencing the great cafés of France, Café du Lac introduces the contemporary French brasserie to Hanoi. The hotel has an outdoor pool and Fitness Club that also offers pilates, yoga and fitness classes. Situated approximately 40 minutes from Noi Bai International Airport.

*Star rating: ★★★★★*

Prices from £95 per person per night including breakfast.

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**Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi**  
*Hanoi, Vietnam*

Located steps from the Opera House in Hanoi’s French Quarter, the famous Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi transports guests into the opulence of a bygone era. Retreat to some of the finest heritage accommodation in the historic Metropole Wing, or discover the Neo Classical luxury accommodation of the Opera Wing. The 364 elegant guest rooms feature bright interiors and beautifully finished timber floors.

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*Star rating: ★★★★★*

Prices from £195 per person per night including breakfast.
Fusion Maia Da Nang

Hoi An, Vietnam

Resting on one of the world’s most beautiful beaches, Fusion Maia dedicates itself to the art of relaxation with 5 Star service and an all spa-inclusive concept. Suites and villas, each with modern open-plan living and private pools in a courtyard garden, have architecture inspired by the ‘forbidden city’ of Hue, and are re-interpreted in a modern style.

The resort offers a wide variety of freshly prepared food and a unique ‘breakfast anywhere anytime’ concept. A guaranteed minimum of 2 spa treatments per person per day allow total indulgence and ensure that guests leave feeling relaxed, refreshed and invigorated.

Prices from £2325 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and Spa All Inclusive).

At a glance

Location: Located 15 minutes from Da Nang Town centre and 20 minutes from Hoi An.
Transfer time: Approximately 15 minutes from Da Nang Airport.
Rooms/suites: 87 - Pool Villas, Spa Villas and Beach Villas.
Restaurants/bars: 3.
Water activities: 2 Swimming pools.
Land activities: Fitness centre, wellness activities such as yoga, tai chi, games room and library, two golf courses nearby.
Spa/Beauty Services: Spa treatments are included in the cost of your holiday. Guests are guaranteed a minimum of 2 pre booked treatments per day and any further treatments taken on a space available basis.
Children: Babysitting available on request.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★★
Four Seasons Resort The Nam Hai
Hoi An, Vietnam

The luxurious Four Seasons Resort The Nam Hai is nestled on a pristine stretch of palm-fringed beach just 15 minutes from the charming old town of Hoi An. Villas are designed in a chic and minimalist style, with dark granite, polished local woods, hand spun silks and contemporary Vietnamese artworks with most situated just steps away from the beach.

Comfort foods and the freshest catch of the day provide daytime treats at The Beach Restaurant, which transforms after nightfall with an extensive menu of Vietnamese delicacies. Tennis, badminton, meditation and yoga sessions are all available to guests. Alternatively unwind in the calm haven of the Heart of the Earth Spa whilst children are entertained at the Kids Club.

Prices from £2509 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: Located on Ha My Beach, 15 minutes from Hoi An.
Transfer time: Approximately 30 minutes from Da Nang Airport.
Rooms/suites: 100.
Restaurants/bars: 3.
Water activities: 3 Swimming pools – 1 adult only.
Land activities: Tennis, badminton, basketball, library and Health Club.
Spa/Beauty Services: The Heart of the Earth Spa.
Children: Kids Club. Babysitting available on request.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast.
Star rating: ★★★★★
Evason Ana Mandara

Nha Trang, Vietnam

Situated in a spectacular spot in the well known beach resort of Nha Trang, Evason Ana Mandara offers a delightful fusion of Vietnamese style and modern comforts as well as breathtaking views across the bay. Incorporating delightful Vietnamese touches, all guest rooms are equipped with modern amenities and private covered terrace.

Delight in cuisine where east meets west. The Pavilion offers fine dining whilst Ana Beach House Bar & Restaurant offers Mediterranean all-day dining. Cycling is synonymous with Vietnam, so the resort provides modern mountain bikes - available for excursions through villages, towns and farms. Skilled therapists create sensory journeys at The Six Senses Spa with a range of holistic wellness and pampering treatments using only natural products.

Prices from £1455 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: On the beach, on Tran Phu Boulevard.
Transfer time: Approximately 40 minutes from Cam Ranh Airport.
Rooms/suites: 91.
Restaurants/bars: 4.
Water activities: 2 swimming pools, water sports centre offering wind surfing, scuba diving, hobie cats, parasailing and kayaking.
Land activities: Gymnasium, tennis, bicycles and library.
Spa/Beauty Services: Six Senses Spa.
Children: Children’s activities and babysitting can be arranged.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast, Half Board and Full Board.
Star rating: ★★★★★
Six Senses Ninh Van Bay

Nha Trang, Vietnam

Accessible only by boat, Six Senses Ninh Van Bay offers uncompromised luxury in an untouched, picturesque setting. Towering mountains, impressive rock formations and a white sand beach add to the sense of being intimately at one with nature. All villas feature private plunge pools on their balconies/terraces and there are villa locations to suit every taste, from hilltop settings to Beachfront and Rock Pool Villas just steps from the sparkling ocean.

Supplied with fresh organic produce grown regionally and the best of local seafood, the restaurants serve international and local favourites plus east meets west specialties.

With traditional Vietnamese therapies and signature treatments customised to suit individual needs, expertly trained therapists create sensory journeys with a range of holistic wellness and pampering treatments.

Prices from £2445 per person (Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

Location: On Ninh Van Bay overlooking the East Vietnam Sea.
Transfer time: Approximately 1 hour from Cam Rahn Airport plus 20 minutes by boat.
Rooms/suites: 59.
Restaurants/bars: 5.
Water activities: Swimming pool, scuba diving, hobie cats, kayaking, water skiing, fishing trips, boat charter and various excursions.
Land activities: Fitness Centre, tennis, tai chi, yoga.
Spa/Beauty Services: Six Senses Spa.
Children: Sub Club for children aged four years and over.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast, Half Board and Full Board.

Star rating: ★★★★★
Six Senses Con Dao
Con Son Island, Vietnam

A contemporary resort situated on a mile of sandy beach, Six Senses Con Dao is set in an area of outstanding natural beauty and boasts a breathtaking location which has been protected for decades as a national and marine park. This all pool villa resort offers light and airy villas, many with magnificent ocean views.

Vietnamese at the Market offers traditional local flavours, whilst By the Beach provides panoramic ocean views and specialises in locally caught seafood. Con Dao is considered to be an excellent example of marine conservation, so snorkelling or diving excursions in the turquoise waters are a must. Six Senses Spa at Con Dao is surrounded by tropical gardens and offers the ultimate in wellness and relaxation.

Prices from £2119 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast).

At a glance

**Location:** Off the southeast coast, on mainland Vietnam.
**Transfer time:** Approximately 45 minutes by flight from Ho Chi Minh City.
**Rooms/suites:** 50.
**Restaurants/bars:** 2.
**Water activities:** Swimming Pool, diving, boat hire, kayaking, hobie cats, basket boats.
**Land activities:** Cooking classes, yoga, bicycles, trekking and library.
**Spa/Beauty Services:** Six Senses Spa at Con Dao.
**Children:** Sense of Laughter Kids Club.
**Board basis:** Bed & Breakfast.
**Star rating:** ★★★★★
JW Marriott Phu Quoc
Emerald Bay Resort & Spa
Phu Quoc, Vietnam

The JW Marriott Phu Quoc Emerald Bay Resort & Spa welcomes visitors with quirky style and an unparalleled location. Perched on the pristine beaches of Phu Quoc, this hidden gem located off Vietnam’s south coast offers a unique and charming ambiance. Each of the 244 rooms and suites are extraordinary in their individuality; most feature breathtaking views of the bay, and all offer plush bedding and marble bathrooms.

Dine in style with a fine dining experience at the Chinese restaurant, which showcases exquisite Cantonese cuisine in a splendid beachfront mansion or delight in exquisitely prepared meats or fish from the grill or delicious international cuisine. Explore the area by bike or kayak or alternatively laze by the swimming pool or pristine beach. Whilst the children are being entertained at the Kid’s Club, enjoy some time out in the resort spa. Situated approximately 25 minutes from Phu Quoc International Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★

Prices from £195 per person per night including breakfast.

Salinda Resort Phu Quoc Island
Phu Quoc, Vietnam

Salinda Resort Phu Quoc Island is a luxury beach resort located on the enchanting Long Beach. The architecture and design create an almost seamless transition between inside and out, all whilst surrounded by the elegance and simplicity of the island’s natural environment. There are 121 light and airy guestrooms which offer modern amenities and a balcony.

Enjoy local and authentic Vietnamese dishes or spice up your night with traditional Indian cuisine in Salinda Restaurant. Explore the marvels of contemporary Italian in elegant Casa Italiana and finish off your day in a relaxing lounge featuring live music. Achieve harmonious and ultimate relaxation through massages delivered by expert therapists at Salinda Spa, whilst children are welcomed at the Kid’s Club. Situated approximately 10 minutes from Phu Quoc International Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★

Prices from £99 per person per night including breakfast.
Park Hyatt Saigon

*Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam*

Park Hyatt Saigon enjoys a prime location overlooking Saigon Opera House on the city’s most famous square. The elegant, French colonial-style hotel is within walking distance of the most popular cultural and historical attractions in Ho Chi Minh City - including Saigon Notre-Dame Basilica and Reunification Palace. With city or garden views, the 252 French-colonial style rooms combine elegant, traditional comfort with the latest technology and feature elegant handcrafted furniture and a marble bathroom with a walk-in rain shower.

Try authentic Vietnamese at Square One or go Italian at Opera. Alternatively, enjoy afternoon tea at Park Lounge or cocktails at 2 Lam Son bar where Saigon socialites gather. The hotel has a refreshing 20 metre outdoor swimming pool and deck, indoor whirlpool, steam room and a state-of-the-art fitness centre. Situated approximately 25 minutes from Tan Son Nhat International Airport.

*Star rating: ★★★★★*

Prices from £175 per person per night including breakfast.

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Caravelle Saigon

*Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam*

Since 1959, Caravelle Saigon has been Ho Chi Minh City’s landmark address in the heart of the city’s shopping and entertainment district. In 1998, an elegant 24-storey tower was built, complementing the original building. The 335 guest rooms are generous in every way and feature specially designed beds and linens.

Try some of Ho Chi Minh City’s most memorable culinary experiences at six superb dining outlets; afternoon teas at Café de l’Opera, innovative five-course menus at Reflections Fine Dining restaurant or classic cocktails in Martini Bar. The secluded freeform pool is the ideal place to relax with a cool drink whilst Kara Spa offers a wide variety of high quality health and wellness therapies. Situated approximately 25 minutes from Tan Son Nhat International Airport.

*Star rating: ★★★★★

Prices from £89 per person per night including breakfast.
Indochina Cruising

Experience the beauty and mysticism of Asia from some of its most famous waterways. Watch towns and villages go about their daily life as you drift peacefully by. See Buddhist temples, floating markets and rice fields dotted along the riverbank from the comfort of a luxury vessel. Laze on the deck, make new friends and enjoy elegant surroundings on a voyage along Asia’s hypnotic rivers.

Sip a cocktail as you watch the sun set over the towering limestone carst of bewitching Halong Bay, an alluring vision of ethereal beauty. No visit to Northern Vietnam is complete without a cruise around this beautiful bay which instils a sense of peace and harmony.

Explore the banks of the Irrawaddy River where life has largely remained unchanged for centuries. Homes on stilts, shimmering pagodas, working villages and UNESCO World Heritage Sites are all awaiting discovery.

Discover remote, off the beaten track villages on the Chindwin River, only navigable by smaller vessels. Temples, Buddha statues and monasteries, stunning mountains and verdant forests line the banks of this calm and serene river.

Sail the mighty Mekong, exploring the colonial the charms of the ancient cities of Vientiane, Phnom Penh and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Luang Prabang. Discover Asian culture at its finest in the vibrant markets, tribal villages, fresh local cuisine and engaging architecture.

Spacious and comfortable accommodations, delectable cuisine and attentive and friendly service complete the picture.
Cruise Vietnam

Bewitching, beguiling, beautiful. No visit to Vietnam is complete without a cruise around spectacular Halong Bay.

Paradise Cruises

Paradise Cruises operate seven different sized luxury vessels including one for private hire. Boats are traditional ‘junk’ style but offer modern comforts and amenities. Cabins are stylish, air conditioned, with en-suite facilities and many offer a private balcony.

Superb Vietnamese and International cuisine is served in the restaurant where guests mingle day and night. Sip a cocktail at the bar on deck whilst cruising past thousands of limestone karsts rising from the emerald waters. Some of the boats offer activities including cookery and tai chi classes and the opportunity to kayak around the atmospheric Bay.

Orchid Cruises

Orchid Cruises has strived to perfect a premium cruising service, offering excellent customer service, a professional crew and a relaxing environment. Each of the 14 cabins are well designed with large windows affording spectacular views of the bay and limestone karsts, selected cabins even feature their own private balconies. The spacious cabins offer superior comfort and modern amenities.

Vessels offer a restaurant serving mouthwatering dishes with stunning views whilst the upper deck provides loungers on which to relax and soak up the peaceful ambience and unforgettable views.
Discover the rich riverside history and daily life on Asia’s incredible tapestry of rivers with river cruise pioneers Pandaw.

Relax and enjoy personalised service in comfort on the shaded deck of small shallow-draft ships, ranging from 5 to 30 cabins, all hand-crafted in teak and brass. Diverse destinations on the Irrawaddy and Chindwin Rivers, the Mekong and the Red River, will fulfil your quest for temples, landscapes and Asian culture. Enjoy renowned cuisine reflecting local produce as well as Western alternatives, whilst being enchanted by the local culture and sights on daily excursions and entertained with on board activities and cultural performances.

The Mekong – Classic Mekong
7 nights Siem Reap - Saigon or 3/4 nights option

Be transported on Pandaw’s newly revised schedule on the Classic Mekong, through the striking cultural contrasts of Vietnam’s bustling delta to the tranquillity of Cambodia. Expedition highlights vary from discovering the splendour of the former French city of Phnom Penh, to the local markets of Sa Dec reached by canal, to a stroll through the Muslim village of the Cham tribe. The ships sailing this itinerary are the 30 bedroomed RV Bassac, the 24 bedroomed RV Mekong and the 28 bedroomed RV Tonle.

Prices from £1355 per person per 7 night cruise on a full board basis

Halong Bay And Red River, Vietnam
10 night Expedition

Explore the highlights of Northern Vietnam by traversing the Red River delta and its main tributaries. Discover mountain villages and tribal areas, sail deep into Highland Vietnam, heading as far as is physically possible up the Song Red River and then down the little known Da or Black River. The itinerary combines scenic beauty, the vibrancy of river life and the exploration of otherwise unreachable areas of the river. This itinerary is sailed by the 16 bedroomed RV Angkor.

Prices from £2339 per person per 10 night cruise on a full board basis

The Laos Mekong - Laos and the Golden Triangle
10 night Expedition

Sail on the mighty Upper Mekong River between Vientiane and Chiang Saen, offering guests the unique experience of traversing Laos. Encounter the charm of the old French capital Vientiane as well as stunning scenery and rapids, pristine jungle and the Golden Triangle with its many little-known ports of call. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Luang Prabang with its wood carved monasteries as well as The Pak Ou Buddha caves, another highlight of this voyage of discovery. This itinerary is sailed by the 10 bedroom RV Laos.

Prices from £2875 per person per 10 night cruise on a full board basis

The Irrawaddy – Mandalay Pagan Packet
7 night Expedition or 4 night option

Take in the highlights of the Irrawaddy, with two millennia of Buddhist archaeology, art and architecture and over 3,000 monuments in Pagan alone. From pottery villages, to the secrets of Salay, to ascending the Tan-Chi-Taung mountains in a 4x4 to visiting a selection of the thousands of listed monuments at this UNESCO World Heritage Site, this varied journey gives a unique insight into this incredible country. This itinerary is sailed by the 18 bedroomed RV Kalaw.

Prices from £1235 per person per 7 night cruise on a full board basis

The Chindwin, Burma
7 night Expedition

Explore one of the most picturesque and peaceful waterways as the river carves its way through mountains and forests and stops at delightful unspoilt towns. The little-visited and truly fascinating ports of call reached from Morywa include Phowin Taung, Mingkin, Mawlaik, Sithaung, Toungdoot and Homalin. Enjoy the intimacy of the small ships sailing this itinerary, the five bedroomed RV Kalay, the 14 bedroomed RV Kha Byoo and the 10 bedroomed RV Zawgyi.

Prices from £3199 per person per 7 night cruise on a full board basis.

Pandaw Cruises
Cruises offer full board, with local alcohol, soft drinks, mineral water and tea & coffee. Wines are not included. International flights are not included.

If Only… in conjunction with our local Destination Management Company can arrange pre and post cruise additional night stays and excursions. Please ask our destination experts for more details.

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
Heritage Line is a consummate collection of classic river vessels. The ships are designed to emulate the glories of a by-gone era, each is unique in its décor and setting with every detail painstakingly crafted to remake history.

On the Mekong, the Jayavarman is inspired by a French-Colonial cruise liner. It charms guests with its romantic, pastel coloured cabins and quaint wooden bar and features intricate woodcarvings, Khmer bas-reliefs and Vietnamese lacquer paintings resembling a floating art gallery.

The Jahan is Heritage Line’s most romantic cruise liner. It evokes the opulent vessels of British India and no expense has been spared in the interior and exterior decorations, which showcase the talents of local woodworkers, weavers and artists in Vietnam and Cambodia.

The Anawrahta, which sails the Ayeyarwady in Myanmar, is the latest addition to the Heritage collection. Built to resemble a British-Colonial paddle-steamer, the ship features three spacious decks and 23 all-balconied cabins and spacious suites. With its gleaming white rails, polished lacquer and intricately carved woodwork, the Anawrahta takes guests to an era of bygone elegance in sailing.

The Lost Civilization
8 days 7 nights. Saigon to Siem Reap and vice versa

The classic Mekong River cruise onboard the Jahan or Jayavarman, The Lost Civilization, combines places rarely visited with opulent world heritage sites.

Day 1: Depart Saigon and travel overland to My Tho. Board the ship and glide upstream to Cai Be.

Day 2: Take a morning tour of Cai Be, in the afternoon embark on a traditional sampan to Binh Thanh Island. Continue onto the border town of Tan Chau.

Day 3: Take a morning tour of Tan Chau, then continue upstream, crossing the border with Cambodia. Spend the afternoon at leisure and arrive in Phnom Penh that evening.

Day 4: Spend the full day exploring the sights of Phnom Penh.

Day 5: Depart Phnom Penh before dawn and cruise to Angkor Ban, famous for its unspoiled traditional houses. Cruise on to Kampong Cham, taking in some temples en route.

Day 6: Visit the island of Koh Oknha Tey, famous for its silk production. Continue onto the Tonle River.

Day 7: Experience Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia’s water world floating village. Continue onto Siem Reap.

Day 8: Cruise ends after Breakfast.

Prices from £1635 per person per 7 night cruise on a full board basis

Please note this Cruise can also be broken down into 2 shorter options. A 5 day, 4 night cruise (Serenity) from Siem Reap to Phnom Penh or a 4 day, 3 night option (Pearl of the Orient) from Saigon to Phnom Penh and vice versa.

Ancient Capitals
5 days, 4 nights. Mandalay to Bagan and vice versa

Myanmar’s Irrawaddy River, also known as the Ayeyarwady has a timeless quality. Rising among Himalayan glaciers and flowing freely for almost 2,200 km, this river is a witness of contemporary history.

Day 1: Board the Anawrahta in Mandalay, cruise to Ava and tour the town.

Day 2: Cruise to the riverside village of Yanderbo and tour the village. Continue on to the next overnight spot, Pakokku.


Day 4: In the morning there is opportunity for a sunrise balloon flight over Bagan (additional cost applies). Tour the local market and Shwezigon Pagoda. In the afternoon visit Mount Popa monastery, or Myinkaba Village, featuring the Manuha Pagoda and the Gubyanki Temple.

Day 5: After breakfast the cruise ends in Bagan.

Prices from £1195 per person per 4 night cruise on a full board basis

Please note this cruise can also be broken down into 2 shorter options. A 3 day, 2 night cruise from Mandalay to Pakkoku or a 4 day, 3 night option from Mandalay to Bagan and vice versa.

Cruises are on a full board basis. International flights are not included.

If Only… in conjunction with our local Destination Management Company can arrange pre and post cruise additional night stays and excursions. Please ask our destination experts for more details.

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
A glimpse of Cambodia

Cambodia is one of Asia’s ‘hidden gems’ and is packed full of history. Discover temples and villages, explore luscious jungle, unwind on the quiet beaches of the south or float down the Mekong River.

The Temples of Angkor are a point of pilgrimage for both locals and visitors and are one of the world’s greatest architectural showpieces. This breathtaking collection of ancient monuments and temples is spread over 400 sq km between the Tonle Sap Lake and the Kulen Mountains. A Cambodian icon and the most famous of the temples, Angkor Wat is a masterpiece of Khmer architecture and is surrounded by a vast moat. At the heart of the nearby ancient walled city of Angkor Thom, discover the magical Bayon Buddhist temple, topped with dozens of towers carved with more than 11,000 figures.

Perched on a peninsula, Sihanoukville is a lively coastal town boasting beautiful white beaches and sparkling waters. This is a great place to unwind in the warm, shallow waters, or to use as a base for exploring the islands just off the mainland.

Phnom Penh has remained relatively unchanged, with open-fronted shops bustling with haggling traders and streets teeming with food vendors and colourful markets. Explore this virtually flat city by bike and discover the lively riverfront and The National Museum, which houses an extensive collection of ancient artefacts and Khmer art. Nearby, the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda are home to a stunning collection of Buddha statues and are one of Phnom Penh’s key attractions.

Destination Data

Location: Southeast Asia, bordered by Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and the Gulf of Thailand
Local Time: GMT + 7 hours
Flying time: Approximately 14 hours from the UK and Ireland
Visa: Required by UK and Irish passport holders
Currency: Cambodian Riel (KHR) (US$ widely accepted)
Vaccinations: Recommended, please contact your doctor
Electricity: 220 volts

When to Visit

From November to January, Cambodia’s weather is similar to that experienced during a Mediterranean summer. It is the most popular time to visit and becomes busy over Christmas and New Year. From February to April, temperatures and humidity rise before the rainy season (May to September) when short, heavy showers that rarely last all day make the country bloom.
Experience the highlights of Cambodia beginning in Phnom Penh with a visit to its most famous landmarks. In Siem Reap, Angkor Wat, Ton Le Sap Lake and the amazing ruins of Angkor Thom should not be missed.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Phnom Penh
On arrival in Phnom Penh you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Visit the Royal Palace and the Silver Pagoda with its shining Emerald Buddha, the National Museum and Toule Tom Pong market in the afternoon. Overnight at your chosen hotel.

Day 2: Phnom Penh - Siem Reap
After breakfast take an early flight to Siem Reap where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. After lunch, you will head out to the ancient walled city of Angkor Thom which, built in the twelfth century, contains the famous Bayon Temple. Overnight at your chosen hotel for three nights.

Meals included: Breakfast.

Day 3: Siem Reap
Visit Angkor Wat, the largest temple in the world. Inspired by twelfth century Hinduism, Angkor Wat took an estimated 30 years to build. This afternoon visit Ta Prohm, a temple which has been left largely in its natural state since it’s ‘re-discovery’ by French explorers. Continue to visit Preah Khan ‘The Sacred Sword’ an extensive monastic complex built by the Khmer King Jayavarman VII.

Meals included: Breakfast.

Day 4: Siem Reap.
After breakfast you will drive past paddy fields and local villages to visit Banteay Srei, a beautiful temple. After lunch continue to Ton Le Sap Lake, the lifeblood of the Cambodian fishing industry. Hopping on board a small boat will allow you to experience daily lake life up close.

Meals included: Breakfast.

Day 5: Tour ends
The tour ends after breakfast. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. Transfer to the airport is included if required.

Meals included: Breakfast.

Tour Hotels

Classic
Phnom Penh........................ Amanjaya Pancam Hotel
Siem Reap.......................... Shinta Mani Shack

Premium
Phnom Penh........................ La Rose Suites
Siem Reap.......................... Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra

Prices from £779 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Classic accommodation.

Prices from £835 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) in Premium accommodation.

This tour can also be shortened to a 4 day, 3 night private tour encompassing Siem Reap only.

Prices include accommodation and meals as specified in itinerary, entrance fees, all transfers and full tour programme as specified, transportation in a private air conditioned vehicle with an English-speaking chauffeur guide, domestic flight and departure tax (subject to change without notice). Excludes international flights.

If Only… in conjunction with our local Destination Management Company offers a selection of tours in Cambodia which can be tailor-made to suit your requirements including additional night stays and excursions. Other hotels are available at a supplement. Please ask our destination experts for more details.

Please refer to pages 162 for hotel information.

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
Cambodia Tour Hotels

Amanjaya Pancam
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Centrally located and offering superb views of the Tonle Sap and Mekong Rivers, Amanjaya Pancam is the ideal base for exploring the lively bars and markets of Phnom Penh. This French Colonial style hotel features 21 generous suites, each elegantly decorated with local materials including rose and cherry wood and Cambodian raw silk and offers views of the Tonle Sap river and vibrant city. Offering a riverside view, K-WEST caters to many palates with its western and Asian menu and premium beef and lamb meats, grilled to perfection.

Star rating: ★★★★

La Rose Suites
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

La Rose Suites nestsles in tropical gardens and is ideally located for exploring the sights of Independence Monument, the Royal Palace and National Museum, and for strolls along the riverside promenade. The 68 spacious and elegant rooms and suites feature traditionally styled local furniture and views over the lush tropical garden and salt-water swimming pool. Indulge your taste buds on Khmer cuisine with a contemporary twist or enjoy a variety of international and Western classics at Banana Tree Restaurant. Indulge in a pampering spa therapy after a busy day sightseeing.

Star rating: ★★★★

Shinta Mani Shack
Siem Reap, Cambodia

Created by the highly acclaimed architect Bill Bensley, Shinta Mani Shack is an impressive boutique hotel, situated in peaceful, leafy surrounds. There are 62 contemporary guestrooms, decorated with art depicting local scenes. The spa combines traditional Khmer healing rituals with modern therapies. There are two restaurants and two bars; the menu at Kroya restaurant is a modern interpretation of classic Khmer dishes. The hotel is situated just 15 minutes’ drive from Angkor Wat, and a few minutes from the riverfront, market and lively bars and restaurants.

Star rating: ★★★★

Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort
Siem Reap, Cambodia

Ideally located for exploring the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Angkor Wat, Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort offers luxurious accommodation with French colonial style. Wooden floors, ceiling fans, soft linens and vibrant local silks offer a backdrop of colonial elegance in the 252 rooms which overlook the garden, pool or the lagoon. Choose to dine by moonlight on the terrace overlooking the gardens or in the elegant French-Khmer restaurant- Mouhout’s Dream. Laze by the abundantly sized swimming pool set amidst tropical splendour or indulge in a relaxing spa treatment.

Star rating: ★★★★★
Le Méridien Angkor
Siem Reap, Cambodia

The closest hotel to the temples of Angkor Wat, Le Méridien Angkor tempts guests to discover the preserved sites of ancient Cambodia. The 220 guest rooms and suites offer a tranquil retreat with tasteful light décor, artfully accented by vibrant silk fabrics and the rich hues of dark wood floors and furnishings.

Whether savouring a modern interpretation of classic Italian fare at L’Angelo or dining on spicy Cambodian cuisine at the inviting Angkor Royal Café, a world of enchanting flavours and rich culinary tradition awaits. Lounge around the Khmer-style outdoor pool or take advantage of the facilities at the fitness centre. Pampering awaits at the tranquil Le Spa, where an exceptional treatments blend holistic Eastern and Western therapies, designed to relax, rejuvenate, and revitalise the body and mind. Situated approximately 15 minutes drive from Siem Reap International Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★

Prices from £75 per person per night on a bed and breakfast basis.

Belmond La Résidence d’Angkor
Siem Reap, Cambodia

An intimate retreat on the banks of a tree-lined river, Belmond La Résidence d’Angkor beautifully captures the region’s rich history while offering guests every modern luxury. The 62 spacious rooms and suites are exquisitely decorated in soft cottons, jewel-toned silks and polished wooden floors and furnishings.

Indulge in royal Khmer cuisine or refined international dishes while magical performances delight and enthrall. Siem Reap’s lively markets, galleries and thriving restaurants and nightlife scene are just moments away. Alternatively, the hotel’s peaceful gardens, an inviting swimming pool and a luxury spa are the perfect place to relax at the end of an action-packed day. Complimentary water blessings with a Cambodian monk are available daily at 8am beside the tranquil lotus pond. This traditional ceremony is known to bring good luck. Situated approximately 15 minutes drive from Siem Reap International Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★

Prices from £115 per person per night on a bed and breakfast basis.
Veranda Natural Resort

Kep, Cambodia

Perched atop the verdant slope of Kep National Park and overlooking the Gulf of Thailand, Phu Quoc Island, and the picturesque Bokor Mountain, Veranda Natural Resort is a nature retreat dedicated to the finest things in life—beauty, tranquility and gastronomic delights. Accommodation consists of suites, bungalows and villas which combine traditional and indigenous designs with modern amenities and private verandas offering cooling breezes and stunning views.

The semi open-air bar and restaurant offers unrivalled views of the sea, golden sunsets and Bokor National Park and the Elephant Mountain along with International and Asian cuisine including expertly prepared traditional seafood dishes. Laze by the two swimming pools or indulge in a therapeutic treatment at The Spa. The Happy Hut offers educational and fun activities for children aged three years and above. Situated approximately 2 hours drive from Phnom Penh International Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★

Prices from £55 per person per night on a bed and breakfast basis.

4 Rivers Floating Lodge

Koh Andet Island, Koh Kong, Cambodia

Awake to the sound of silence, punctuated by the sounds of nature and the gently lapping water. Located just a stone’s throw from the forest, this floating, eco-lodge resort is situated on the Tatai River, close to the Cardamom Mountains and is within easy reach of the town of Koh Kong. The resort, reached only by boat, offers 12 comfortable safari style tents boasting modern amenities and a restaurant offering authentic Cambodian dishes.

Opportunities abound for experiencing the majesty of the region; take a sunset cruise along the river, trek through the rainforest, visit the Bat Cave by bicycle, marvel at the waterfalls by kayak, spot hornbills and kingfishers in the mangroves or simply relax on your private terrace taking in the sounds and sights of the natural surroundings. Situated approximately 3 hours drive from Sihanouk International Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★

Prices from £105 per person per night on a bed and breakfast basis.
Alila Villas Koh Russey

*Koh Russey, Cambodia*

Magnificent views, direct beach access and total privacy are guaranteed at Alila Villas Koh Russey. Nestled in 25 hectares of landscaped grounds, contemporary architecture is infused with Khmer ambiance and charm at this luxury boutique resort. Spacious pool villas offer sleek modern design, spectacular vistas and ultimate privacy.

Savour local and international delicacies at The Ridge Restaurant, kick back at the Beachside or chill-out at The Lounge whilst spectacular views from the Sunset Bar provide unforgettable memories.

Activities include an infinity pool, fitness centre, scuba diving, surfing, sailing kayaking and biking, hiking and horse-riding. Immerse yourself in a truly invigorating journey of holistic wellbeing at Spa Alila whilst the children are entertained at the Kid’s Club. Situated approximately 30 minutes from Sihanouk International Airport by boat and car.

*Star rating: ⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐*

The hotel is due to open in early 2018. Please contact us for rates.

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Sokha Beach Resort

*Sihanoukville, Cambodia*

Located by a stretch of pristine white sandy beach, Sokha Beach Resort nestles in beautifully landscaped gardens and offers a relaxing ambience. The 391 comfortable rooms and suites offer Khmer inspired design and balconies overlooking the gardens or swimming pool.

Enjoy a plethora of cuisines ranging from Japanese, Khmer, tapas, sushi, grilled steaks, fresh seafood and international dishes from the resort restaurants, all complemented by gracious Cambodian hospitality. Enjoy a leisurely day on the beach, lounge by the swimming pools or maintain fitness regimes at the fitness centre. Pamper the mind, body and soul at Jasmin Spa where a variety of relaxing and revitalising treatments are offered by expertly trained therapists. Sokha Kid’s Club offers a wide selection of fun and educational activities for younger guests. Situated approximately 25 minutes from Sihanouk International Airport.

*Star rating: ⭐⭐⭐⭐*

Prices from £105 per person per night on a bed and breakfast basis.
A glimpse of Laos

Retaining an old-fashioned charm and slower pace of life, Laos is home to a number of diverse cultures; colourfully dressed hill tribes populate the higher elevations, while in the lowland river valleys, coconut palms sway over Buddhist monasteries.

Rural stilt houses and paddy fields look just as they do in the movies and hundreds of monks drift through the streets of Luang Prabang every morning.

Discover the Plain of Jars, mysterious giant stone jars thought to be over 2,000 years old and scattered across 15km of the Xieng Khuang Plateau, perched high above the Mekong and Vientiane Plain.

Sitting by the Mekong and Khan Rivers, the bohemian town of Luang Prabang is home to red-roofed temples, French-Indochinese architecture, some of the country’s best cuisine and Laos’ most sacred Buddha image - the Pha Bang. Visitors to this tiny town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, can take in the view from the top of Mount Phousi at sunrise, wander around the lively morning market, explore the elegant Royal Palace Museum or visit the impressive Wat Xieng Thong.

Laos’ laid-back capital, Vientiane, is a former French trading post dotted with grand monuments. Visit Wat Sisaket, the city’s oldest temple, and Wat Simuang, one of the most popular temples before stopping at That Luang in the evening, when the golden spires glow in the setting sun.

Destination Data

Location: Bordering Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar and China
Local Time: GMT + 7 hours
Flying time: Approximately 16 hours from the UK and Ireland
Visa: Required to be arranged in advance of travel for UK and Irish passport holders
Currency: Kip (LAK)
Vaccinations: Recommended, please contact your doctor
Electricity: 230 volts

When to Visit

October to April is when the weather is warm and dry throughout. The ‘green season’ is from late May to October, when the rain showers are usually short and sharp making the waterfalls flow once more and the wildlife flourish in the lush scenery. River travel is best between November and January.
Surrounded by thickly forested mountains and situated at the confluence of the Khan and Mekong Rivers, Luang Prabang, now a UNESCO World Heritage City, has a tranquil, old world charm.

This fascinating town was the capital of the Lane Xang (million elephants) kingdom until the mid-sixteenth century. The legacy of the European presence here - well preserved French architecture and careful street planning – has blended delightfully with more than 30 gilded Buddhist temples to create a town rich in atmosphere and history.

In the northern mountains of Laos is an area known as The Plain of Jars. Here, hundreds of stone jars lie scattered across the land – no one knows their true purpose or origin, although there are many myths and legends.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Luang Prabang
Upon arrival at Luang Prabang Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel for a two night stay. This evening it is possible to take a stroll through Luang Prabang’s night market with your local guide where there is an overwhelming selection of locally made handicrafts for sale. Overnight in your chosen hotel for two nights.

Meals included: Dinner.

Day 2: Luang Prabang
This morning there is the option to start the day early with an unforgettable experience – The Tak Bat. At dawn hundreds of monks walk serenely through the streets collecting alms (offerings of food). Your guide will explain the background behind this ritual. Return to your hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast transfer to Luang Prabang pier to begin a riverboat trip on the mighty Mekong to visit the sacred Pak Ou Buddha Caves. Pak Ou caves have been home to many thousands of Buddha images placed here by local people since the 16th century. Today many people still respect this tradition. After exploring the caves, return to your boat and begin the river journey back to Luang Prabang.

After lunch begin a sightseeing tour of some of the monuments around the ancient city. Visit Wat Xieng Thong – often said to be Luang Prabang’s most beautiful Wat. Next, visit Wat Visoun, the site of an impressive stupa, That Makmo and the nearby Luang Prabang National Museum, formerly the Royal Palace. Continue to nearby Vat Mai, a good example of graceful Luang Prabang architecture.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch.

Day 3: Luang Prabang
After breakfast, depart Luang Prabang for Phonesavanh via a mountainous road offering breathtaking views with lunch en-route. Along the way, choose to immerse yourself in the local culture by visiting a local market or village. Arrive at your hotel in Phonesavanh in the late afternoon for a two night stay. This evening is at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch.

Day 4: Luang Prabang
After breakfast drive to Site Number 1 at the Plain of Jars, the largest site, followed by stops at Site No. 3, which is surrounded by rice fields, and Site No. 2, home to the largest jar.

After lunch, drive to Muang Khun, the former Xieng Khouang city destroyed by war. Then stop at Ban Phai to visit a small and mainly unknown site of Jars. Return to Muang Khun to explore the ruins of the old city including the Wats, then take a short walk to a Tai Dam village. The Tai Dam people are well accustomed to Lao life but still retain their distinctive cultural customs. Return to Phonesavanh late in the afternoon.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch.

Day 5: Luang Prabang - Vientiane
Enjoy breakfast and the morning at leisure. Late morning, transfer to the airport for the short flight to Vientiane where you will be met and transferred to your hotel for a one night stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast.

Day 6: Vientiane
After breakfast visit Wat Sisaket, the oldest original temple in Vientiane. Wat Sisaket features impressive frescoes and over 6,000 images of Buddha. Then visit the nearby Haw Phra Kaew, once the royal temple of Lao monarchy. The main structure originally housed the famous Emerald Buddha that now resides in Bangkok.

Stop by Patousay, the victory gate. Constructed in 1958, its architecture is inspired by the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. Follow this with a stop at the sacred Phra That Luang stupa, built in 1566.

Time permitting, visit Talat Sao - a food and vegetable market to mingle with the charming locals. Then transfer to Vientiane Airport for your onward flight.

Meals included: Breakfast.
Tour Hotels

Classic
Luang Prabang .......... Angsana Maison Souvannaphoum Hotel
Plain of Jars .......... Vansana Plain of Jars Hotel
Vientiane .............. Green Park Boutique Hotel & Resort

Premium
Luang Prabang .......... Sofitel Luang Prabang
Plain of Jars .......... Vansana Plain of Jars Hotel
Vientiane .............. Settha Palace Hotel

Prices from £1039 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) for Classic accommodation.

Prices from £1279 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) for Premium accommodation.

Internal airfares are subject to slight change without notice so prices may vary. Price includes accommodation and meals as specified in itinerary, entrance fees, all transfers and full programme as specified, transportation in a private air-conditioned vehicle with an English-speaking chauffeur guide. Price excludes International airfare. All travelling times are estimated and can be influenced by traffic volumes, road conditions, local events and weather.

If Only… in conjunction with our local agent offers a selection of tours in Laos which can be tailor-made to suit your requirements including additional night stays and excursions. Other hotels are available at a supplement. Please ask our destination experts for more details.

Please refer to page 170 for hotel information.

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
Laos Tour Hotels

Vansana Plain of Jars Hotel
Plain of Jars, Laos

Perched on top of a hill in Phonsavan, Xieng Khouang, Vansana Plain of Jars Hotel offers great 360-degree views of Phonsavan town and the surrounding countryside and mountains. The 38 well-equipped and comfortable rooms feature a private balcony affording fantastic views of Phonsavan. Dine on an extensive range of Thai, Lao and international dishes from the a la carte menu at Vansana Restaurant. This is an excellent place to enjoy a drink at sunset, either on a private balcony or in the restaurant. Situated approximately 10 minutes from Phonsavan airport and 30 minutes from the Plain of Jars.

Star rating: ★★★

Green Park Boutique Hotel & Resort
Vientiane, Laos

Experience the spirit of traditional Lao hospitality at Green Park Boutique Hotel, superbly located within walking distance of the Friendship Bridge, Morning Market and That Luang Stupa. Find tranquility in the Classic Rooms, with views over the pond or swimming pool from the private balconies. Sala Nong Chan Restaurant serves a selection of local and international dishes with superb views over the marshy Nong Chan Park. Spend a lazy day by the swimming pool or rent a bicycle and explore the surrounding towns. Restore balance and harmony of the body and mind at Champa Lao Spa. Situated approximately 15 minutes from Wattay International Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★☆

Angsana Maison Souvannaphoum Hotel
Luang Prabang, Laos

Ideally situated for exploring the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Luang Prabang, the colonial style Angsana Maison Souvannaphoum offers a peaceful sanctuary to relax in after spending busy days exploring. Garden Wing Rooms feature classic colonial interiors and French doors leading to peaceful balconies that overlook lush gardens. Admire the twist of Laotian touch and French colonialism in the Residence Rooms with a partial pool view and daily afternoon tea. Elephant Blanc is the perfect place to feast on Lao and Indo-Chinese cuisine and Western favourites. Angsana Spa offers guests a large selection of treatments to help recharge and awaken the senses. Situated 30 minutes from Luang Prabang Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★

Sofitel Luang Prabang
Luang Prabang, Laos

Blending colonial charm with contemporary style, the boutique Sofitel Luang Prabang offers sun-kissed courtyards, shimmering pools and frangipani-fragrant gardens. Exquisite furnishings, hand-woven textiles and Lao artefacts adorn the elegant 23 villa suites. Spacious Garden Suites are lavishly decorated with local silk, while Pool Villas also boast a private plunge pool. Discover distinctive spices and flavours of traditional Lao cuisine and savour delicious Western fare at the Governor’s Grill steakhouse restaurant. This retreat in the Ban Mano quarter of Luang Prabang offers an indulgent spa and a cooking school. Situated approximately 15 minutes from Luang Prabang Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★

Settha Palace Hotel
Vientiane, Laos

The Settha Palace Hotel serves as a testament to the long lost era of classic sophistication, gracious service and French colonial charm and is perfectly located for exploring the local markets, while the Mekong River is just 1km away. The 29 classic, yet tastefully decorated rooms and suites feature either garden or pool views. At La Belle Epoque Restaurant, explore the interesting flavours on the Lao menu or classic French menu. The swimming pool is a tranquil retreat after a day’s exploration whilst the Spa offers a selection of treatments to recharge and awaken the senses. Situated approximately 10 minutes drive from Wattay International Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★
From the markets and monuments of bustling cities to the serenity of beautiful sacred temples, experience the best that Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand have to offer on this all-encompassing tour. Enjoy a cruise around stunning Halong Bay, cycle around the beautiful countryside, visit several famous UNESCO World Heritage Sites, take some time out to relax on the beach, tantalise your tastebuds with superb cuisine and meet the most welcoming of people. This is a journey never to be forgotten.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Fly on an overnight flight to Hanoi.

Day 2: Hanoi
On arrival transfer to your hotel in downtown Hanoi. Optional afternoon excursions available. In the evening explore Hoan Kiem Lake area with the locals. Overnight for three nights at your chosen hotel.

Meals included: None.

Day 3: Hanoi
Tour of the city highlights including Ba Dinh Square, Ho Chi Minh Museum and One Pillar Pagoda. Continue to the Temple of Literature followed by stops at Hoan Kiem Lake and the Opera House followed by a walk around the lively old quarter.

Early evening, board a cyclo (pedi-cab) to the famous water puppet show, re-enacting the story of Vietnamese history.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 4: Hanoi
Travel to the ancient village of Duong Lam, located in typically rural Vietnamese countryside, where two Vietnamese kings were born and enjoy a bicycle ride alongside rice paddyfields.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch.

Day 5: Hanoi - Halong Bay
Travel to Halong Bay this morning for an overnight cruise aboard a traditional ‘junk’ boat. Sail through breathtaking scenery and see impressive stalactite and stalagmite formations in quiet caves or take a dip in the calm waters before watching the sun set over the bay.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 6: Halong Bay – Da Nang/Hoi An
Enjoy breakfast, disembark and return to Hanoi for your flight to Danang. On arrival at Danang airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel in Hoi An for a two night stay.

Meals included: Breakfast.

Day 7: Da Nang/Hoi An
Explore the pretty town of Hoi An on foot - visit the unique Japanese bridge, lively markets and shop for art at one of the numerous galleries.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch.

Day 8: Da Nang/Hoi An - Hue
Drive along the famous Hai Van Pass, taking in the spectacular scenery. After lunch, travel by boat to Thien Mu pagoda followed by a visit to Tu Duc’s tomb in Duong Xuan Thuong village, one of the most beautiful works of royal architecture of the Nguyen dynasty.

Overnight at your chosen hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

Day 9: Hue - Ho Chi Minh City
Fly to Ho Chi Minh City. After lunch continue to Cho Lon, and visit Cha Tam Church where President Diem sought refuge shortly before his assassination in 1963. Overnight in your chosen hotel for three nights.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch.
Highlights of Indochina

16 day, 15 night private tour

Laos
Day 10: Ho Chi Minh City
This morning travel 90 minutes outside of the city to visit the Cu Chi Tunnels, a vast underground network of tunnels built first as a defence against the French and later expanded during the American war. Enjoy an afternoon tour taking in the former Presidential Palace now a museum, Notre Dame, an impressive neo-Romanesque cathedral and the History Museum.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch.

Day 11: Ho Chi Minh City - Cai Be, Mekong Delta
Drive for approximately 3 hours to the Mekong River town of Cai Be, known for its large floating market and board a traditional wooden boat for an introduction to life on the river. Return to Ho Chi Minh City in the late afternoon.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch.

Day 12: Ho Chi Minh City – Siem Reap
Fly to Siem Reap where you will be met and transferred to your hotel for a two night stay.
This afternoon drive to Ton Le Sap Lake, the lifeblood of the Cambodian fishing industry, and board a small vessel to cruise amongst the floating homes and small fish farms. On the return to Siem Reap visit a development project teaching young adults local skills.

Meals included: Breakfast.

Day 13: Siem Reap
Explore the magnificence of Angkor Thom – the last capital of the Khmers, with its Elephant Terrace and the stunning Bayon temple and Ta Prohm, the temple that has been left largely in its natural state since its “re-discovery” by French explorers. Late afternoon, enjoy a visit to, and the sunset over the magnificent Angkor Wat.

Meals included: Breakfast.

Day 14: Siem Reap – Bangkok
Enjoy the morning at leisure (optional excursions are available). Fly to Bangkok where you will be met and transferred to your chosen hotel. (flight cost not included). Overnight in your chosen hotel for two nights.

Meals included: Breakfast.

Day 15: Bangkok
Visit the ‘must see’ architectural wonder of the Grand Palace and the massive reclining Buddha at Wat Po. The afternoon is at leisure (optional excursions are available).

Meals included: Breakfast.

Day 16: Bangkok – Departure
Transfer to Suvarnabhumi International Airport for your onward flight.

Meals included: Breakfast.

Tour Hotels

Classic
Hanoi..................................Hotel de l’Opera Hanoi
Halong Bay........................Orchid Cruise
Hoi An............................Boutique Hoi An Resort & Spa
Hue..............................La Residence Hotel
Ho Chi Minh City...........Caravelle Hotel
Siem Reap.....................Victoria Angkor Hotel
Bangkok.........................AVANI Riverside Bangkok Hotel

Premium
Hanoi.............................Sofitel Legend Metropole Hotel
Halong Bay..................Paradise Luxury Cruise
Da Nang......................Fusion Maia Resort
Hue..............................La Residence Hotel
Ho Chi Minh City......Park Hyatt Hotel Saigon
Siem Reap...............Sofitel Angkor
Bangkok.....................The Peninsula Bangkok

Prices from £3099 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) for Classic accommodation.

Prices from £4165 per person
(Based on two persons sharing) for Premium accommodation.

Domestic airfares are subject to change without notice so prices may vary. Price includes accommodation and meals as specified in itinerary, entrance fees, all transfers and full programme as specified and transportation in a private air-conditioned vehicle with an English-speaking chauffeur guide. All travelling times are estimated and can be influenced by traffic volumes, road conditions, local events and weather. Price includes return scheduled flights from London and all airport taxes. Price excludes flight between Siem Reap and Bangkok.

If Only… in conjunction with our local agent offers a selection of tours in Indochina which can be tailor-made to suit your requirements including additional night stays and excursions. Other hotels are available at a supplement. Please ask our destination experts for more details.

Please refer to pages 142, 144, 145, 151 and 153 for hotel information.

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
A glimpse of Malaysia

With 137 languages spoken, this is one of the world’s top melting pots of culture, races and religions. Malaysia’s multiculturalism has made this country a gastronomic paradise and home to hundreds of colourful festivals.

Prehistoric rainforests that nurture some of the world’s rarest animals, beautiful beaches, cool highland hideaways and cities that blend modern and colonial architecture are all waiting to be enjoyed.

Kuala Lumpur (KL) is likely to be the first port of call for many - a vibrant mega city where the traditional and the modern combine, with breathtaking skyscrapers and colonial gems standing side by side in an eclectic mix of styles. Lush parks complement colonial buildings and everywhere commerce is king, with mega-sized shopping malls, bustling street markets and trendy nightspots.

In an archipelago of 99 tropical islands, just off the coast of Kedah, the beautiful tropical island of Langkawi is shrouded in age-old myths and legends and is filled with natural beauty. Explore the well preserved marine park, a diver’s paradise or enjoy a bird’s eye view of the jungle and waterfalls from the Langkawi Cable Car that climbs up to the island’s second highest peak at 709 metres above sea level. On a clear day, Thailand in the north and Indonesia towards the south west can both be seen.

With jungle covered hills and a wealth of beaches, Perak District is on the west coast of peninsular Malaysia and further north, just offshore is the island of Penang - the ‘Treasure of the Orient’. From the bustling, winding streets of George Town (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), where old British colonial buildings stand alongside ancient temples, to the palm trees fringing the coast at Batu Feringgi, and from night markets to irresistible culinary delights, this region has it all.

Cameron Highlands, known to some as the ‘little corner of England in Asia’, remains unchanged since colonial times and retains a relaxed pace of life.

With pure white sands, crystal clear waters, magnificent corals and an abundance of marine life, Borneo also boasts the highest mountain in Malaysia (Mount Kinabalu). Sabah is a paradise for diving enthusiasts and nature lovers while neighbouring Sarawak Province is renowned for its limestone peaks, amazing cave network and exciting nature trails.
Destination Data

Location: Malaysia is bordered by Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia
Local Time: GMT + 8 hours
Flying time: Approximately 12 hours from the UK and Ireland
Visa: None required by UK and Irish passport holders
Currency: Malaysian Ringgit (MYR)
Vaccinations: None compulsory, please contact your doctor
Electricity: 220/240 volts, using UK/Irish style 3 pin plugs

When to Visit

Temperatures are pretty constant all year, around 30°C by day. Humidity is high and there are short showers, often in the mid-afternoon. The rainy season is usually from late November to mid-February, but still a good time to visit, particularly for major festivals such as the Chinese New Year in January and February. The best time to visit most of the country is generally between March and early October when there is less humidity.
Experience the best of Borneo’s natural wonders with a visit to Mount Kinabalu, walks through lush forests, boat trips and exotic wildlife including Pigmy Elephants, Macaques and monkeys.

A visit to Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary is a must for any visitor to Borneo.

Tour Itinerary

**Day 1: Kota Kinabalu**
Meet the guide upon arrival at Kota Kinabalu airport and transfer to the Hyatt Regency Kinabalu for a two night stay. The remainder of the day is free to explore the city alone.

**Day 2: Kota Kinabalu**
After breakfast, depart for a two hour drive to Kinabalu Park, nominated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Enjoy the spectacular mountain scenery on the drive through the Crocker Range to the Park Head Quarters, stopping at local fruit and handicraft stalls en-route. The Kinabalu Park is home to Mt. Kinabalu, the highest mountain in Malaysia which towers majestically at 4095 metres. Trek along cool forest trails to see and learn more about the unique insect eating plants, orchids and the rain forest. In the late afternoon transfer back to the hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

**Day 3: Sandakan**
Early morning, transfer to the airport for the flight to Sandakan. After arriving at Sandakan airport, proceed overland to explore the Gomantong Caves, home to millions of swiftlets and bats. The swiftlets nests are collected for the famous Chinese Bird’s nest soup. Depart overland for Bilit Rainforest Lodge, situated along the banks of the Kinabatangan River and surrounded by riverine forest. The forest here is home to the Proboscis monkey, endemic to Borneo. Also seen here are Long Tail and Pig Tail Macaques, Hornbills and with some luck, wild Orangutans, Silver & Maroon langoor and the Borneo Pigmy Elephant.

Later this afternoon, take a boat ride along the Kinabatangan River and into one of its smaller tributaries. Overnight at Bilit Rainforest Lodge or similar for a two night stay.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

**Day 4: Sandakan**
Enjoy an early morning cruise along the Kinabatangan River to observe wildlife and experience the early morning river ambience of the longest river in Sabah. Return to the lodge to enjoy time at leisure until the late afternoon, before taking another river cruise to search for wildlife.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

**Day 5: Sepilok**
Check out after breakfast and transfer to the Sepilok Nature Resort. Check in, have lunch and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. Overnight at Sepilok Nature Resort.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

**Day 6: Sepilok**
After breakfast proceed to the Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary to see how orphaned Orangutans are trained to re-enter the forest. Then, proceed to the airport for the departure flight.

Meals included: Breakfast

Prices from £1465 per person
(Based on two persons sharing).

Internal airfares are subject to change without notice so prices may vary slightly. Price includes accommodation and meals as specified in itinerary, entrance fees, all transfers and full programme as stated, transportation in a private air-conditioned vehicle with an English-speaking chauffeur guide. Boat trips are on a shared basis. Price excludes international flights. All travelling times are estimated and can be influenced by traffic volumes, road conditions, local events and weather.

If Only… in conjunction with our local agent, offers a selection of tours in Malaysia which can be tailor-made to suit your requirements including additional night stays and excursions.

For more detailed tour information please refer to ifonly.net
Natural Wonders of Borneo

6 day, 5 night private tour

Malaysia
Gomantong, Orangutan and Sun Bears
3 day, 2 night private tour

This short tour offers a great opportunity to get up close and personal with Borneo’s famous “Man of the Forest” the orangutan. Other highlights include a visit to the Sun Bear Conservation Centre, a wildlife river cruise and a trip to the Gomantong caves.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Sandakan - Bilit
Pick up from hotel in Sandakan or from the airport. Continue to the Sepilok Orangutan Centre, home to orangutans that are undergoing a rehabilitation program to return to the wild. Visit the adjacent Sun Bear Conversation Centre. Take the two hour drive through plantations and villages to the Bilit Rainforest Lodge. Spend the afternoon at leisure, early evening take a cruise along the Kingabatangan River.

Meals included: Lunch and Dinner

Day 2: Bilit
Enjoy an early morning and late afternoon wildlife cruise in search of Proboscis monkeys and other jungle flora and fauna. Ample time is given for rest and relaxation during the day in this remote tropical rainforest location.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 3: Bilit – Sandakan
After breakfast depart for the Gomantong Caves, home to millions of swiftlets and bats. Transfer back to Sandakan hotel or the airport where the tour concludes.

Meals included: Breakfast

Prices from £585 per person
(Based on two persons sharing).

Please visit Ifonly.net for hotel information.

Internal airfares are subject to change without notice so prices may vary slightly. Price includes accommodation and meals as specified in itinerary, entrance fees, all transfers and full programme as stated, transportation in a private air-conditioned vehicle with an English-speaking chauffeur guide. Boat trips are on a shared basis. Price excludes international flights. All traveling times are estimated and can be influenced by traffic volumes, road conditions, local events and weather.

If Only... in conjunction with our local agent, offers a selection of tours in Malaysia which can be tailor-made to suit your requirements including additional night stays and excursions.

Please see Ifonly.net for more detailed tour information.
Traders Hotel

*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

Traders Hotel Kuala Lumpur by Shangri-La is perfectly located in the heart of Kuala Lumpur City Centre and offers panoramic view of the Petronas Twin Towers, KLCC Park and the city’s skyline. The 571 rooms are modern and contemporarily decorated.

*Star rating: ★★★★★ Superior.*

Prices from £69 per person per night on a bed and breakfast basis

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Shangri-La Hotel

*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

A tranquil retreat in the heart of a vibrant city, Shangri-La Kuala Lumpur offers easy access to sightseeing and shopping and is the ultimate luxurious city-centre escape. Renowned for impeccable service, each room and suite is stylishly decorated with contemporary elegance.

*Star rating: ★★★★★★

Prices from £85 per person per night including breakfast

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The Majestic Hotel

*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

Set on 3.2 acres, opposite the striking old Moorish style railway station, The Majestic Hotel is perfectly located for exploring Kuala Lumpur. Mixing the old with the new, this national heritage site includes the original fully-restored five-storey hotel backed by a 15-storey modern tower.

*Star rating: ★★★★★

Prices from £65 per person per night on a room only basis

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The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur

*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

Renowned for its classic style and uncompromising service, The Ritz-Carlton, Kuala Lumpur is an opulent oasis. With world class amenities and facilities, the hotel is ideally located and is connected to the sophisticated boutiques and designer stores of the Starhill Gallery.

*Star rating: ★★★★★

Prices from £85 per person per night including breakfast
The Westin Langkawi Resort & Spa
Langkawi, Malaysia

Nestled in over one hundred acres of tropical forest and gardens, the Westin Resort and Spa provides majestic views over the Andaman Sea. Each of the 202 rooms, suites and villas are decorated with fresh white linens with a flash of colour for a clean, contemporary feel.

Dining provides a delightful mix of Malaysian hospitality, Asian cuisine and international favourites. Tide boasts stunning sea views and traditional European comfort food, whilst Anjung Damai serves Malaysian culinary creations adjacent to the beach. Dive into one of the four tantalising swimming pools, play a game of tennis, workout in the Fitness Studio or explore the island on a bicycle tour. For water sports head to the private beach and enjoy kayaking, sailing, scuba diving and snorkeling. The Westin® Kids Club welcomes all kids from 4 to 12 years old.

Star rating: ★★★★★

Prices from £1309 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)

Four Seasons Resort Langkawi
Langkawi, Malaysia

Just minutes by boat from the world-renowned mangroves of the Kilim Karst Geoforest Park, Four Seasons Resort Langkawi combines artful design and all-pervading serenity with a wholesome connection with nature. The Pavilions and Beach Villas are nestled in the tropical gardens or set on the beach overlooking the Andaman Sea. Features include timber floors, verandas and uniquely Malay touches.

Ikan-Ikan’s menu masterfully blends the best regional specialties. Western cuisine is featured at Kelapa Grill, with an appealing range of dishes - grilled seafood, stir-fries and meats are a specialty. Guests can choose from a spectrum of recreational activities including archery, rock wall climbing, wakeboarding, windsurfing and jet skiing. Geo Spa brings the ancient healing energies of Langkawi’s UNESCO Geopark into bespoke natural treatments. The Kids For All Seasons programme for 4-12 year olds creates memorable, fun and educational experiences.

Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.

Prices from £2225 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)
The Andaman, a Luxury Collection Resort
Langkawi, Malaysia

Surrounded by the natural beauty of an ancient rainforest, The Andaman, a Luxury Collection Resort is a pocket of peace and tranquility overlooking the sparkling, pristine sea and the white sandy beach of Datai Bay. Rooms and suites include the Deluxe Rainforest and Treetop Rooms which feature a Juliet balcony, wooden floors and bright cushions with little touches of modern art.

The Andaman dining venues entwine gourmet cuisine with indigenous flavour. Traditional Malay favourites are offered at Tepian Laut, whilst Malay and Scandinavian Western fusion dishes are on offer at Jala. With a selection of activities on offer including guided nature walks through the rainforest, non-motorised water sports and golfing at Els Club Teluk Datai, guests will relax in the beauty of their surroundings.

Prices from £1359 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)

At a glance

Location: On the northwest coast.
Transfer time: Approximately 35 minutes from Langkawi International Airport.
Rooms/suites: 186.
Restaurants/bars: 7.
Water activities: Swimming pool, snorkelling, wind surfing, sailing and kayaking.
Land activities: Fitness centre, billiards and games room, mountain bikes, jungle trekking and an 18-hole Championship golf course adjacent to the resort.
Spa/Beauty Services: V Botanical Spa.
Children: Young Explorer’s Club for children aged 4 – 12 years.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast, Half Board and All Inclusive.
Star rating: ★★★★★
The Datai Langkawi

Langkawi, Malaysia

Nestled in the heart of an ancient rainforest, The Datai Langkawi is a captivating destination resort that blends smoothly with its natural surroundings. Each room, suite and villa enjoys the embrace of the lush rainforest and offers stunning views from private verandas of the breathtaking Andaman Sea.

Gulai House is located in the heart of the rainforest and serves authentic Malaysian and Indian specialities. The Pavilion is an intimate al fresco venue, surrounded by the rainforest canopy, serving traditional Thai dishes. Join the complimentary morning and evening rainforest nature walks guided by resident naturalists, or explore the surrounding area on mountain bike. An enchanting rainforest sanctuary, the intimate Datai Spa features indigenous Malay rituals that harness the power of rare medicinal jungle plants.

Prices from £1955 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)

At a glance

Location: On the northwest coast.
Transfer time: Approximately 30 minutes from Langkawi International Airport.
Rooms/suites: 111.
Restaurants/bars: 5.
Water activities: Two swimming pools, snorkeling, windsurfing, kayaking and sailing.
Land activities: Jungle trekking, mountain bikes, library, gymnasium and cooking classes. Golf nearby.
Spa/Beauty Services: The Datai Spa.
Children: Babysitting available on request.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast and Half Board.
Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.
Golden Sands Resort

Penang, Malaysia

Situated within eight acres of tropical gardens, on Penang’s famous Batu Feringgi beach, Golden Sands Resort by Shangri-La is ideal for guests of all ages. The 387 brightly designed guestrooms feature uniquely Malaysian touches, most offer a private balcony boasting spectacular views of the beach.

Garden Café offers a relaxed and inviting environment with international and local favourites whilst Sigi’s Bar and Grill, known for its seafood and wood fire pizzas, is a family-style restaurant. Guests can practice their swing at the 9-hole golf course, relax by the 2 swimming pools or play a game of tennis at one of the tennis courts. Spa facilities are available at the Rasa Sayang Resort and Spa. Cool Zone Kids Club is available for children aged 5 to 12 years old, activities include arts and crafts, board games and video games.

**Star rating:** ★★★★ Superior.

Prices from £1025 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)

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Shangri-La’s Rasa Sayang Resort & Spa

Penang, Malaysia

Located on the famed Batu Feringgi Beach and nestled between the sea and emerald hills, a stay at Shangri-La’s Rasa Sayang Resort & Spa creates memories to last a lifetime. Each of the 304 rooms offers a fresh, spacious and airy ambience, with an earthy and citrus palette.

The Feringgi Grill, a contemporary Western-style restaurant, offers a range of delicious cuisines and The Spice Market Café pays delicious homage to Penang’s heritage as an historic centre of trade in spices and exotic herbs. Guests may enjoy a guided jungle walk, relax by the swimming pool, play a game of pitch and putt at the Par 3 golf course or head to the sea for a selection of water sports. Set within a secluded corner of the resort, CHI, The Spa, offers a large selection of Chinese and Malay treatments to help guests relax and unwind.

**Star rating:** ★★★★★ Deluxe.

Prices from £1265 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)
Tanjong Jara Resort
Terengganu, Malaysia

Fronted by a turquoise green sea and shaded by tall palms, Tanjong Jara Resort is a sanctuary designed to reflect the elegance of 17th Century Malay palaces and encourages rejuvenation of both body and spirit. Finished in local timber and rich fabrics, each room commands a view of the South China Sea or the tropical landscaped gardens.

Honouring the best local ingredients and with a selection of charming settings, dining is a relaxed, enjoyable experience. Nelayan offers a variety of Asian and Western dishes for lunch while dinner features a unique symphony of seafood themed dishes. The Spa Village is a retreat that draws on Malay healing culture and rituals that are amongst the oldest in the world.

Prices from £1385 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)

At a glance
Location: Near Kuala Terengganu on the east coast of Malaysia.
Transfer time: Approximately 1 hour 15 minutes from Kuala Terengganu Airport.
Rooms/suites: 100.
Restaurants/bars: 2.
Water activities: 2 swimming pools, seasonal diving and snorkelling excursions (March to September).
Spa/Beauty Services: Spa Village Tanjong Jara.
Children: Babysitting available on request.
Board basis: Bed and Breakfast and Full Board.
Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.
Described as "a unique resort on a unique island", Pangkor Laut Resort is a slice of paradise surrounded by rain-forested hills and palm fringed beaches. Villas are set on a hill, within the garden or close to the beach. The resort’s signature accommodation, the Sea and Spa Villas rest on stilts above the emerald green sea.

Fisherman’s Cove features a symphony of seafood themed dishes whilst Uncle Lim’s Kitchen specialises in dinners of Nyonya and Hockchew Chinese-style home cooking. The Spa Village is a unique retreat that draws on the healing cultures and rituals that are amongst the oldest in the world. The abundance of Malay, Chinese, Indian and Thai practices makes this the ideal setting for complete rejuvenation.

Prices from £1529 per person  
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)

At a glance

Location: On the private island of Pangkor Laut, off the west coast of Peninsular Malaysia.
Transfer time: Approximately 3 and a half hours from Kuala Lumpur and a 15 minute speedboat transfer from Lumut.
Rooms/suites: 140.
Restaurants/bars: 5.
Water activities: 2 swimming pools, fishing, island-hopping, kayaking, wind surfing, water skiing.
Land activities: Tennis, squash, gymnasium, library, jungle trekking and yoga.
Spa/Beauty Services: Spa Village at Pangkor Laut.
Children: No children under 16 years are permitted in the Spa Village, Spa Villas and Sea Villas.
Board basis: Bed & Breakfast and Half Board.
Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.
Gaya Island Resort

Kota Kinabalu, Malaysian Borneo

Set within a protected marine park and fringed by a sandy beach, rocky coastal outcrops and coral reefs, the hilly landscape of Gaya Island Resort is covered with lush tropical rainforest. Villas are identical in terms of design and size, only the views differ. Options include mangrove, canopy, tropical rainforest or views of the South China Sea. Each villa features white linens, wooden floors and modern amenities.

For a taste of Japan, visit Omakase, where guests have a choice of teppanyaki, shabu-shabu or nabe that’s prepared by the talented chef. Guests can trek through the forest looking for wildlife such as the proboscis and macaque monkeys, mouse deer and bearded pigs. Spa Village is uniquely rooted in ancient tradition and seeks to restore balance to the body and soul leaving guests feeling totally relaxed.

Prices from £1459 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)

At a glance

**Location:** In Pulau Gaya, off the west coast of Sabah, Borneo.

**Transfer time:** Approximately 30 minutes drive from Kota Kinabalu Airport and a 15 minute speedboat transfer from Jesselton Point.

**Rooms/suites:** 121.

**Restaurants/bars:** 3.

**Water activities:** Lap pool with 4 floating cabanas, PADI dive courses, diving excursions, guided snorkelling exploration, fishing, kayaking and sunset cruises.

**Land activities:** Cultural excursions, cooking classes, bird watching, nature walks, fitness centre, library and yoga classes.

**Spa/Beauty Services:** Spa Village Gaya Island.

**Children:** Kids pool, half day activity programme.

**Board basis:** Bed & Breakfast and Full Board.

**Star rating:** ★★★★★
Shangri-La’s Rasa Ria Resort & Spa
Kota Kinabalu, Malaysian Borneo, Malaysia

Cradled between forested hills and a long pristine beach, Shangri-La’s Rasa Ria Resort & Spa is surrounded by 400 acres of lush tropical vegetation, including a unique Nature Reserve. All of the 499 rooms feature a balcony or terrace and are located either in the Garden Wing with forest or garden views, or the newer Ocean Wing with sea views.

Kozan’s interior echoes the minimalist aesthetics of a classical Japanese teppanyaki restaurant and the Golfers’ Terrace overlooks the 18-hole Dalit Bay championship golf course. A plethora of facilities include guided tours of the Nature Reserve, large swimming pool, bicycle hire, horse riding, tennis, archery, 18-hole championship golf course and water sports. Luxurious yet down-to-earth, THE SPA features holistic treatments based on time-honoured Asian methods. Children from 5 to 11 years can spend the day learning new skills at the Kids Club. Situated approximately 40 minutes from Kota Kinabalu International Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.

Prices from £1375 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)

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Shangri-La’s Tanjung Aru Resort
Kota Kinabalu, Malaysian Borneo, Malaysia

Shangri-La’s Tanjung Aru Resort & Spa is situated in lush, landscaped gardens overlooking a protected marine National Park and is only a short drive from Kota Kinabalu. The 492 luxurious rooms and suites are spread over two wings – the Kinabalu Wing and the Tanjung Wing. All rooms are designed to provide a contemporary feel inspired by the colours and textures of traditional Borneo.

Peppino has a contemporary and chic Italian ambience, while Shang Palace’s classic traditional interiors enhance the experience of dining on excellent Chinese cuisine. The resort also has a large swimming pool, Jacuzzi and a selection of activities including table tennis, tennis courts and yoga. CHI, The Spa, offers traditional treatments that are plant-based in nature, leaving guests feeling totally relaxed and refreshed. Children can enjoy CoolZone Kids Club, waterpark and children’s pool. Situated approximately 10 minutes from Kota Kinabalu International Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.

Prices from £1345 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)
A glimpse of Indonesia

Straddling the equator, between the Asian mainland and northern Australia, Indonesia is made up of thousands of diverse islands that are waiting to be explored.

Mostly volcanic, each island features towering mountains covered in rice terraces or rainforest that lead down to beautiful golden beaches and clear blue seas. Discover enchanting culture, ancient temples, grand mountain views, verdant jungle, rolling waves to surf in and deep blue seas to dive in, or simply unwind by the pool or in the spa of a luxurious resort. Whether embarking on an adventure or indulging in a relaxing break, the warm and gracious welcome of the Indonesian people is found at every turn.

A tiny island of elegant temples, verdant landscape and great surf, Bali is a land of contrasts. The middle of the island is dominated by dramatic volcanoes, towering mountains, hillside temples and rice fields, while the coastal resorts are lined with beautiful beaches and swaying palms. Explore the laidback and fashionable resort of Seminyak, enjoy a family-friendly getaway in Sanur or escape to the peaceful beaches at Jimbaran, Uluwatu and Nusa Dua.

Lombok is known for its pristine white sands and surfing spots, as well as its verdant interior which offers lush hiking trails through rice paddy fields. Take time to visit Gunung Rinjani, Indonesia’s second highest volcano, an attempt to climb to the top will be rewarded with spectacular views.

Java offers something for everyone, from huge cities, a vibrant art and music scene, lush rice paddy fields, bewitching natural beauty, traditional dance, stunning volcanos, dense rainforests, intriguing culture and heritage and beautiful unspoiled beaches.

Destination Data

- Location: An archipelagic island country lying between the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean
- Local Time: GMT + 8
- Flying Time: Approximately 18 hours from the UK and Ireland
- Visa: No visa required for UK and Irish passport holders.
- Currency: Rupiah (DR) – US dollars, credit cards and cheques accepted
- Vaccinations: May be recommended depending on the area visited, contact your doctor
- Electricity: 110/220 volts

When to Visit

The best weather in Indonesia is found in May, June and September, when it’s relatively dry and not so humid. The wet season falls between October and April and although there’s still plenty to do and rains rarely last all day, some activities, such as volcano trekking, can be affected by the weather.
If Only… offers a wide variety of full and half day excursions around Bali, helping you to make the most of your time on this beautiful island. These are a selection of our most popular trips, please ask our destination experts for more information.

Bali’s Greatest Hits
(Duration 9 - 10 hours)

After an early pick up, you will be taken to see the Barong Dance performance at Batubulan, a masked dance describing the fight between good and evil. Then proceed to Kintamani, passing by Celuk where you may pay a short visit to the village where silver crafts are made.

Another stop is Mas, known for its wood carving products. In Kintamani enjoy lunch overlooking the semi-active volcano, Mount Batur which stands majestically over beautiful Batur Lake. After lunch drive to Gunung Kawi, known for its bathing pools and holy springs, a site for Balinese pilgrims.

On the return, there is a stop at Tegallalang to enjoy the vista of Balinese rice terraces, followed by a visit to the art galleries in Ubud.

The East of Bali
(Duration 8 - 9 hours)

After an early start, drive to Kertagosa village, once a place for the administration of traditional justice in pre-colonial times. Continue to Kusamba to visit the fishing village before exploring Goa Lawah, the famous bat cave dating back to the 11th century. Inside the cave, you will find thousands of bats hanging from the ceiling as well as holy python snakes that often appear around the cave.

After that, visit Tenganan village where Southeast Asia’s finest textile art is produced. After lunch at a local restaurant, proceed to the unique Karangasem Palace and Tirta Gangga, royal water garden. The last stop is Kehen Temple in Bangli, a Hindu temple situated in stunning surroundings.

The North of Bali
(Duration 9 - 10 hours)

Commencing in the early morning, drive to Pejaten Ceramic Centre before heading to Belimbing for a walk through the rice fields surrounded by coffee, cacao, clove and vanilla plantations. After a short coffee break continue to Lovina, a quieter, ‘off-the-beaten-track’ beach.

After lunch at a local restaurant, continue to Bedugul to visit Munduk waterfall, Ulun Danu temple and twin lakes of Danau Buyan at this highland retreat.

Bali - The Sunset Experience
(Duration 4 hours)

This special Bali sunset experience starts at 4.30 pm. You will be driven to Uluwatu, a beautiful highland area in the south of Bali. After 45 minutes drive, arrive at the holy temple of Pura Uluwatu, an exquisite monument perched above the sea.

Enjoy the epic Balinese Kecak dance performance, relating the story of eternal love between Rama and Shinta, complimented by the stunning sunset in the background. End the day with a hearty fresh grilled seafood dinner at a local restaurant in Jimbaran Bay. Dinner included.
Bali Excursions
Full and half day trips

Indonesia
The St. Regis Bali Resort

Located on the beachfront with magnificent views of the Indian Ocean, the St. Regis Bali Resort is carved into the coastline of the exclusive enclave of Nusa Dua. St. Regis traditions, opulence and style combine with Balinese charm and hospitality to create a spectacular destination. Experience the tranquility of calming views, plush furnishings, bespoke service and the generous use of space in the 125 suites and pool villas.

Savour exceptional cuisine in the resort’s signature Kayuputi fine beachfront dining restaurant or visit Boneka for more casual, continental fare. The resort’s water sports centre offers kayaking, snorkelling, canoeing and windsurfing. Remède Spa offers the most exclusive treatments, techniques and ingredients inspired by cutting edge wellbeing and Balinese traditions. The Children’s Learning Centre is designed to stimulate and entertain children aged between 4 and 12. Situated approximately 20 minutes from Denpasar International Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★

Prices from £1975 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)
Anantara Seminyak Bali Resort

*Seminyak, Bali*

Discover the joys of the Anantara Seminyak Bali Resort, such as the rustle of a sea breeze through coconut palms and the world famous Seminyak sunsets. This all-suite resort has a contemporary design, blended with Balinese and Indonesian culture, ocean views and expansive balconies. The 60 stylish suites offer modern comforts and panoramic views of the Indian Ocean along with a host of facilities and services and are equipped with the signature Jacuzzi terrazzo tub big enough for two.

Wild Orchid Asian and Continental Restaurant serves up spicy and fragrant cuisine. On the rooftop, MoonLite Kitchen and Bar offers fine dining with grilled meats and fresh seafood served in a vibrant atmosphere. Guests can enjoy kite flying and surf lessons or enjoy a yoga session. Anantara Spa soothes, pampers, rejuvenates and revitalises in unique, beautiful surroundings. Situated approximately 30 minutes from Ngurah Rai International Airport.

**Star rating:** ★★★★★

**Prices from £1695 per person**
*(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)*

The Samaya Bali

*Seminyak, Bali*

The Samaya Bali is a modern and stylish, all pool villa resort, in the heart of Seminyak. Choose to stay in one of two beautiful locations, either in the hip district of Seminyak in a beautiful beachside setting, or across the street within a tranquil Balinese village. Each of the 52 villas boast a private pool, Butler service and stunning views.

Modern, seasonal cuisine is served at Breeze, where the menu focuses on quality produce and authentic flavours, all accompanied with Indian Ocean views and stunning sunsets. Soothe body and soul with a yoga class or soak in some local culture on a tour to a nearby temple. SPA at The Samaya offers treatments inspired by the ocean and provides an experience that is both uplifting and comforting. Situated approximately 30 minutes from Denpasar International Airport.

**Star rating:** ★★★★★

**Prices from £2259 per person**
*(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)*
The Oberoi, Bali

Seminyak, Bali

Located on the sophisticated Seminyak beach, The Oberoi, Bali is spread across fifteen acres of breathtaking tropical gardens which are uniquely dotted with ancient Balinese temples. Traditional Balinese thatch, natural stone and ornate wood carvings lend an authentic ambience to the 74 luxury lanai rooms and villas where floor-to-ceiling windows flood the rooms with natural light and refresh them with gentle breezes whilst offering the latest modern technology.

Guests can experience fine European and Indonesian cuisine whilst being entertained by authentic Balinese music and dance along with spectacular ocean views. Therapies at The Oberoi Spa include Balinese, Thai, Western and Oberoi treatments that harmonise ancient philosophies and modern science, using natural ingredients. Alternatively, guests can work out in the fitness centre, laze by the swimming pool, play tennis on the flood lit court or take a yoga class. Situated approximately 40 minutes from Denpasar International Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★

Prices from £1959 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)

Bali Mandira Beach Resort & Spa

Legian, Bali

Regarded as a classic Balinese hotel with modern facilities, Bali Mandira Beach Resort & Spa is a place where dreams are lived out and memories are built. Surrounded by lush gardens, the resort is ideally positioned close to the bustling resorts of Kuta and Legian. Wake up to the sounds of the ocean, surrounded by exotic wooden furniture, tropical Balinese design and warm hospitality.

Discover excellent food served with Asian flair and ocean breezes at Celagi Restaurant, while Barong Bar is the perfect place to enjoy the sunset with a cocktail. Legian’s beaches are wide and golden with a spectacular backdrop of stunning sunsets. After exploring the surroundings, unwind in the two swimming pools that enjoy ocean views or visit Glow Spa for a complete mind and body wellness experience. There is a Kid’s Club for children aged 3 - 12. Situated approximately 20 minutes from Denpasar International Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★

Prices from £1195 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)
Alila Ubud
Ubud, Bali

Alila Ubud sits high up on the edge of the rich, green Ayung River Valley in Bali’s central foothills. Blending contemporary design and traditional Balinese architecture, the secluded courtyards, spacious terraces and private gardens create an intimate feeling.

Housed in 14 two-storey blocks, the 68 guest rooms all have panoramic views. Superb Valley Villas offer a spacious deck and are perched over the valley affording spectacular views. Towering coconut pillars and a traditional thatched roof lend a bright and open feel to the brasserie style Plantation Dining restaurant, where the Executive Chef artfully prepares Balinese cuisine as well international dishes. Try a few laps in the swimming pool, which is perched on a terrace and appears to float above the valley below. Spa Alila boasts offers a range of spa treatments designed to revitalise. Situated approximately 1 hour from Denpasar International Airport.

**Star rating:** ★★★★ Superior.

**Prices from £265 per person**
(Based on a 3 night stay including breakfast)

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Hanging Gardens of Bali
Ubud, Bali

Hanging Gardens of Bali is a luxurious destination nestled deep in the heart of the rainforest. The private villas reflect the island’s natural, serene beauty while every suite provides discrete luxury, combining contemporary and Balinese décor with hand-crafted furniture and exotic fabrics.

With panoramic views of the valley and the scenic backdrop of the temple on the opposite side of the gorge, The Beduur Restaurant serves Asian and French cuisine with Balinese ingredients. Alternatively, indulge at the open air Bukit Becik Bar - a tranquil setting for watching nature at its best. At the geographical and spiritual core of the resort is the striking two-tier swimming pool which is suspended over the dense rainforest. Discover the unique flavours and cooking styles of Bali’s cuisine with a cooking lesson. In pure Balinese style, the Ayung Spa is dedicated to relaxation and well-being. Situated approximately 90 minutes from Denpasar International Airport.

**Star rating:** ★★★★★ Deluxe.

**Prices from £645 per person**
(Based on a 3 night stay including breakfast)
The Chedi Club Tanah Gajah

Ubud, Bali

Hidden among the lush hills of Bali’s culture-rich highlands, The Chedi Club Tanah Gajah sits among rice fields and enjoys breathtaking sunrises over Mount Agung. Each of the 20 art-filled suites and villas will delight romantic escapists and active explorers alike, with Suites that overlook lotus ponds, Pool Villas where guests can do more than just plunge and Spa Villas for ultra-private pampers. Attentive butlers are on hand to attend to every whim.

For sumptuous dining experiences, the restaurant offers Western and Asian specialities surrounded by panoramic views of rice fields and tropical jungle. Relax by the swimming pool, work out in the gym, take a cookery class, play a game of tennis or wind down in the yoga studio. The Spa blends modern facilities with a variety of indulgent spa treatments and beauty therapies. Situated approximately 80 minutes from Denpasar International Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★ Deluxe.

Prices from £1785 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)

Fairmont Sanur Beach Bali

Sanur, Bali

Offering understated elegance, Fairmont Sanur Beach Bali is an indulgent resort set amidst four acres of lush tropical gardens along 200 metres of golden beach. Experience contemporary, tropical living across the 120 luxurious suites and villas, each providing expansive space, peace and round-the-clock on-call butler service.

Discover a unique culinary insight into the wonders of Balinese cooking through locally sourced ingredients mixed with special spices, created to serve up the flavours of the island. Catch the sunrise on the picturesque beach, take a dip in the resort’s 50 metre infinity edge pool, borrow a bicycle from the resort and cycle round Sanur or retreat to the calm oasis of the spa and indulge in a wellness session, featuring an extensive menu of pampering treatments. Children will delight in the activity-packed kid’s club, complete with a mini cinema and games consoles. Approximately 30 minutes from Denpasar International Airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★

Prices from £1349 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)
Spa Village Resort Tembok, Bali

Tembok, Bali

Spa Village Resort Tembok Bali is a place of peace and calm, combining the therapeutic value of its beachfront location with an ancient and rich cultural heritage. Embracing the traditions of Balinese culture, rooms blend grace with modern comfort and offer wide terraces or balconies that open up to expansive views of the gardens or sea.

The setting of the resort’s restaurant, overlooking the sea, provides beautiful views as diners enjoy a rotating versatile menu featuring Indonesian fusion and light Western cuisine selections. Learn about Balinese cuisine in a cooking class or reenergise in a yoga session. To preserve the peaceful sanctuary of the Spa Village experience, the resort is a smoke free environment and welcomes guests aged 16 years and above.

Prices from £1455 per person
(Based on a 7 night stay including flights, transfers and breakfast)

At a glance

Location: In the beautiful village of Tembok, on the pristine North Eastern coast of the island.
Transfer time: Approximately 2 1/2 hours drive from Ngurah Rai International Airport.
Rooms/suites: 31.
Restaurants/bars: 1.
Water activities: Swimming Pool, sunrise/sunset cruise.
Land activities: Recreation and exercise room, TV room; cooking classes, yoga and local cultural activities.
Spa/Beauty Services: The Spa.
Board basis: Full Board and daily 50 minute spa treatment.
Star rating: ★★★★★
The Oberoi, Lombok

Medana Bay, Lombok

Located on the enchanting Medana Bay, with exclusive beach access and sunset views of Bali’s volcanic Mount Agung, The Oberoi, Lombok is unique amongst luxury hotels in Lombok. Spanning twenty-four acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, the resort is abundant with towering indigenous trees, flaming bougainvillea and also boasts a spectacular infinity pool. Accommodation is divided between 50 thatched villas and pavilions, all of which are afforded breathtaking ocean and lush garden views.

Luxury dining is afforded by open air, thatched dining spaces which serve fine international cuisine, local delicacies and Lombok coffee, complimented by live, traditional music and Balinese dance. There is also a dedicated PADI certified dive centre, a large outdoor pool, a gymnasium, a tennis court and a croquet lawn. The Oberoi Spa in Lombok offers traditional Balinese, Thai, Western and signature Oberoi therapies. Situated approximately 1 hour 45 minutes from Lombok International airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★ Delux.

Prices from £555 per person
(Based on a 3 night stay including return flight from Bali, transfers and breakfast)

Katamaran Resort

Senggigi, Lombok

Katamaran Resort is located right on the beachfront of the exquisite Mangsit Beach in Senggigi. The hotel is designed to rejuvenate both mind and spirit. Framed by pristine ocean and lush landscape, stunning sunset views of Mount Agung offer an escape from the daily grind. Accommodation is available through 107 tastefully appointed rooms and suites, ranging from Premier rooms designed to take in the sunset or opt for one of the chic Ocean View Suites, or Private Pool Villas, with two bedroom villas being available for families.

There are two restaurants serving mouthwatering international cuisine, grilled meats and fresh seafood accompanied by stunning views. Soul Bliss Spa offers holistic treatments and rituals whilst yoga and cookery classes are also available. Situated approximately 1 hour from Lombok International airport.

Star rating: ★★★★★

Prices from £325 per person
(Based on a 3 night stay including return flight from Bali, transfers and breakfast)
Experience the ethereal beauty of sunrise over the active volcano of Mount Bromo and take a step towards enlightenment at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Borobudur, the world’s largest single Buddhist monument.

These are just two of the highlights on this tour through central Java. Also enjoy Java’s cultural capital of Yogyakarta and its neighbouring Hindu temple complex, Prambanan. Combine and contrast this comprehensive tour with an extension to the adjacent islands of Bali or Lombok for the perfect beach break to fully maximise your time in Indonesia.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Borobudur
Arrive at Adisutjipto International Airport, after collecting your bags you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 2: Borobudur – Yogyakarta
An early start affords sunrise at Borobudur. Built across nine platforms, each one representing a higher level of enlightenment, Borobudur is the world’s largest Buddhist temple and a truly awe inspiring sight. Transfer in the afternoon to Yogyakarta where the rest of the day is at leisure.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 3: Yogyakarta
Take a city tour, encompassing visits to the Sultan’s Palace, the Dutch “Water Castle” designed as an 18th century royal pleasure park and the city district of Kota Gede, famed for its silver. Head out of the city to visit the small village of Kaliopak where craftsmen paint buffalo hides and make shadow puppets. After lunch visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Prambanan, a 9th Century Hindu Temple compound before returning to your hotel in the late afternoon.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 4: Yogyakarta – Solo
Head East towards Solo, stopping en-route at the Sukuh Temple, located on the scenic side of Mount Lawu. Continue onto Solo and the Istana Mangkunegaran Palace. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5: Solo – Malang
An early start to board the train to Kertosono, on arrival transfer by car to Kediri for lunch then continue through classic Javanese scenery to Colonial Malang. The drive takes around 3 hours, and there are plenty of opportunities for scenic photographs en-route.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 6: Malang – Wonotoro
Start the day with a visit to the small Kidal temple, featuring stone carved Garuda’s, the mythical winged creature and symbol of Indonesia. Enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city including a rickshaw ride, perfect for discovering the backstreets. After lunch continue onto the village of Wonotoro, 2000 metres above sea level and the gateway to Mount Bromo.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 7: Mount Bromo – Surabaya
The 3am start is handsomely rewarded by a short trek to view the sunrise over the majestic caldera of Mount Bromo. After soaking in the scenery, return to the hotel for breakfast and a chance to freshen up before transferring to Juanda International Airport for your onward flight.

Tour Hotels

Borobudur ...................... Plataran Borobudur Resort & Spa
Yogyakarta ............... The Phoenix Hotel
Solo .............................. Alila Solo
Malang ........................ Hotel Tugu Malang
Wonotoro ....................... Jiwa Jawa

Please visit ifonly.net for hotel information.

Prices from £1405 per person
(Based on two persons sharing).

Prices include accommodation and meals as specified in itinerary, entrance fees, all transfers and full programme as stated, transportation in a private air-conditioned vehicle with an English-speaking chauffeur guide. Boat trips are on a shared basis. Price excludes international flights. All travelling times are estimated and can be influenced by traffic volumes, road conditions, local events and weather.

If Only… in conjunction with our local agent, offers a selection of tours in Indonesia which can be tailor-made to suit your requirements including additional night stays and excursions.

Please see ifonly.net for more detailed tour information.
Moana Komodo Cruise
6 day / 5 night cruise

Moana is a classic 30m Phinisi Schooner, able to take up to 10 passengers. She is perfectly equipped for cruising, diving and snorkelling around Komodo. Join as an individual traveller, a couple or family/small group to see the best of the Komodo National Park from above and below the water level.

All cabins are en-suite and feature air-conditioning. Moana is entirely made from teak and ironwood, lending a warm and comfortable accent to the boat. On the spacious upper deck, there is an air-conditioned indoor salon and a relaxing deck area, where you will find the dining area. Lovers of the great outdoors can also be offered blankets to sleep outside under a canopy of stars.

Sample Itinerary

Day 1
Fly from Bali or Lombok to Labuan Bajo, enjoy a welcome refreshment and ship orientation. Then relax and enjoy the view as you weigh anchor toward the beautiful island of Sebayur.

Day 2
Devote the day to snorkelling in the bay of Gililawa Laut, or explore the nearby reefs on sea kayaks.

Day 3
Enjoy swimming, relaxing, kayaking and snorkelling. Highlights include spotting schools of colourful fish at Siaba Kecil, or observing Manta rays at the aptly named Manta Point. Overnight in the beautiful lagoon of Siaba Besar.

Day 4
Snorkel the pelagic rocks of Batu Bolong, offering sightings of very active marine life. Relax onboard during the cruise to Rinca island, with another snorkel opportunity available at Pulau Tengah.

Day 5
Take an hour long ‘Dragon Walk’ to sight the Komodo Dragon, the world’s largest lizard in its natural habitat. They only live on Komodo, Rinca and their small surrounding islands. There are also opportunities for viewing other wildlife, including deer monkeys and colourful bird life.

Day 6
On arrival back in Labuan Bajo, there is the possibility of taking an early morning tour through the old town. Disembark after lunch for a transfer to the airport and return flight to Bali or Lombok.

Inclusions: Full board, soft drinks (by the can), tea & coffee, land excursions and beach stays (subject to itinerary)

Exclusions: Crew gratuities, hire of snorkel or dive equipment.

Prices from £1645 per person
(Based on two persons sharing).

Price excludes international flights.

If Only… in conjunction with our local agent, offers a selection of tours in Indonesia which can be tailor-made to suit your requirements including additional night stays and excursions.

Please see ifonly.net for more detailed information.
Indonesia 209

Moana Komodo Cruise
6 day / 5 night cruise
A glimpse of Singapore

This progressive island nation and gateway to Southeast Asia is a dynamic mix of cultures, ideas and histories.

Astounding 21st Century architecture, colonial buildings, Chinese and Indian temples, bazaars, flea markets, street vendors, churches and mosques all seem to find space to flourish between the numerous green spaces and parks.

The Night Safari is a must-see. Using special lighting techniques and set in lush rainforest, the world’s first night zoo reveals what over 2500 nocturnal animals from 130 species get up to after dusk. Take a 50 minute tram ride and observe lions gnawing on their dinners, mountain deer in striking poses and a rhino taking a bath.

Sentosa Island is where the city comes to play. Theme and water parks, the S.E.A aquarium, beaches, Sentosa Golf Club and much more is available just 15 minutes away from the city centre on a monorail ride or on the cable car from Harbourfront.

Singapore is perfect for a stopover and even better for a longer stay.

Destination Data
Location: Southeastern Asia, Singapore lies between Malaysia and Indonesia
Local Time: GMT + 8 hours
Flying time: Approximately 14 hours from the UK and Ireland
Visa: UK and Ireland passport holders may visit ‘visa free’ for up to 30 days.
Currency: Singapore Dollar (SGD)
Vaccinations: None compulsory, contact your doctor
Electricity: 220 volts

When to Visit
Being in the tropics which is hot and humid, there isn’t a particular season that’s better for sightseeing in Singapore, with fairly consistent weather year round. There is not much of a difference between the wet season and the slightly drier summer season.
Park Hotel Clarke Quay
Singapore
The iconic riverfront Park Hotel Clarke Quay is centrally located just minutes from the Clarke Quay entertainment precinct, along the quaint streets of Robertson Quay. The 336 guestrooms are elegantly decorated with neutral tones, offering the perfect retreat.

Star rating: ★★★★
Prices from £85 per person per night

Hotel Jen Tanglin
Singapore
Centrally located near the Orchard Road shopping district and the Botanic Gardens, Hotel Jen Tanglin offers contemporary comfort and attentive service for excellent value. Rooms offer a relaxed and extremely comfortable stay, just 25 minutes from the airport.

Star rating: ★★★★
Prices from £99 per person per night

Marina Mandarin Singapore
Singapore
An award-winning hotel in the heart of the Marina Bay City, Marina Mandarin Singapore is located close to the Marina Square Shopping Mall and the Singapore Flyer. Spacious rooms with a contemporary feel offer superb views from the private balconies.

Star rating: ★★★★★
Prices from £105 per person per night

Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore
Singapore
Set amidst 15 acres of lush gardens, swimming pools, Koi ponds and waterfalls, Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore is a luxurious oasis. With luxury guest rooms and suites in three distinctive wings, each stay is as unique as each guest.

Star rating: ★★★★★
Prices from £165 per person per night on a bed and breakfast basis
A glimpse of Hong Kong

Once a colonial gateway to China, Hong Kong is a fusion of east and west. This vibrant, fast-paced, dazzling, bustling and incredibly exciting city embraces both the old and the new.

It is a brash, buccaneering city that delights the visitor and yet provides surprises with its countless contradictions.

Hong Kong Island, long associated with superb restaurants and designer boutiques, has some of this destination’s iconic attractions, whilst Kowloon, with its bustling street markets, paradise of shops, glitzy malls, and bars and restaurants is not to be missed.

Destination Data
Location: Hong Kong is on China’s south coast and is surrounded by the South China Sea.
Local Time: GMT + 8 hours
Flying time: Approximately 12 hours from UK and Ireland
Visa: None required by UK or Irish passport holders
Currency: Hong Kong Dollar (HK$)
Vaccinations: None compulsory, contact your doctor
Electricity: 220 volts

When to Visit
This 24/7 destination is great to visit at any time of year. Hong Kong is hot, humid and wettest in the summer. October to December is considered the best time to visit.
Harbour Grand Hong Kong

*Hong Kong Island, Hong Kong*

Harbour Grand Hong Kong boasts stunning views of the world renowned Victoria Harbour from its ideal location close to Causeway Bay, Wanchai and Central. Dine at Le 188° Restaurant & Lounge with its stunning 188-degree harbour view.

**Star rating: ★★★★★**

Prices from £109 per person per night on a bed and breakfast basis

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Harbour Grand Kowloon

*Kowloon, Hong Kong*

Nestled beside the famous Victoria Harbour, this exclusive retreat allows guests to experience the urban beauty of Hong Kong. Guests have the advantage of panoramic views from the restaurant, the rooftop sundeck and glass-sided pool and from most rooms and suites.

**Star rating: ★★★★★**

Prices from £129 per person per night on a bed and breakfast basis

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Kowloon Shangri-La

*Kowloon, Hong Kong*

Sitting in the famous Tsim Sha Tsui east district, overlooking Victoria Harbour, Kowloon Shangri-La, Hong Kong is perfectly located for exploring the city. Cantonese specialities are served at Shang Palace, the hotel’s two Michelin star restaurant, making dining a truly memorable experience.

**Star rating: ★★★★★**

Prices from £189 per person per night on a bed and breakfast basis

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Island Shangri-La, Hong Kong

*Hong Kong Island, Hong Kong*

A welcoming retreat in the heart of the city, Island Shangri-La, Hong Kong soars 56 floors above Hong Kong’s most prestigious shopping and cultural addresses. Known for its legendary warmth and friendly service, the hotel provides award-winning comfort and dining opportunities.

**Star rating: ★★★★★**

Prices from £209 per person per night on a bed and breakfast basis
Our Airline Partners

It is the policy at If Only… to use only scheduled airlines and below we have provided some general information regarding each of our airline partners with which you may have the pleasure of flying to your chosen destination featured in this brochure. Many of these airlines operate from various cities throughout the United Kingdom and regional add-on fares are available. Please ask a member of our Reservations team about these regional add-ons at the time of enquiry or booking.

**British Airways**

British Airways sets itself the highest standards in everything it does. There is a choice of four cabins: World Traveller (economy class) offers a 31” seat pitch, seat-back entertainment systems, a free bar-service and complimentary three-course meals. World Traveller Plus is a quieter, more spacious cabin with 7” more legroom and greater seat recline than World Traveller, two armrests per seat and in-seat laptop power. The Club World seat adapts to your needs, whether you’re sleeping, eating, or relaxing. You will also enjoy lounge access at most airports and an exclusive arrivals lounge at London Heathrow Terminal 5. Alternatively, you may enjoy a luxury travel experience in First with the ultimate in comfort, service, entertainment and privacy.

**Etihad Airways**

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, has been the recipient of several Skytrax annual World Airline Awards. Coral Economy Class offers a 10.4” personal TV, video-on-demand and a generous seat pitch and width. With a privacy shell, 6’1” luxurious fully flat beds and direct aisle access from every seat and 15” personal screens, Pearl Business Class is a more luxurious way to travel. Diamond First Class offers the above high-end services as well as the benefits of a flat 6’8”, extra wide bed in your own personal suite, sliding doors for complete privacy, mini bar and a 23” personal screen.

**Oman Air**

Oman Air has witnessed rapid growth and has played a major role in making Muscat a major traffic hub in the Middle East. The Oman Air fleet consists of modern and fuel efficient aircraft with aesthetically designed interiors. The Muscat based airline is investing heavily in its product and services to match the growing reputation that Oman is receiving as an up-market leisure destination as well as an increasingly important business centre. Oman Air strive to enhance products in terms of convenience, efficiency and service so that flying with them is consistently an enjoyable experience. Oman Air is ranked a Four Star airline by SKYTRAX, the world’s largest Airline and Airport review site.

**Emirates**

Winner of over 500 awards, Emirates offers unrivalled levels of service, state-of-the-art facilities and convenient scheduling to guarantee your comfort. Emirates currently operates 17 daily direct services to Dubai from 6 UK Airports – Heathrow, London Gatwick, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle and Glasgow with onward connections to over 150 worldwide destinations. Emirates’ modern fleet of aircraft offer individual TV screens in every seat and the ‘ice’ (information, communications, entertainment) entertainment system features more than 2500 entertainment channels.

**Qatar Airways**

Currently operating daily flights from London Heathrow, Manchester, Cardiff and Edinburgh to Doha from the UK, Qatar Airways ever-expanding route network offers hassle free connections to over 150 destinations. Economy class offers one of the widest seats available plus access to over 1000 entertainment options whilst those looking for a premium experience can enjoy extra levels of comfort in one of the most remarkable Business and First Class cabins in the skies as well as access to the dedicated Lounges, Dining and Spa facilities at the world’s first Premium Terminal in Doha.

**Virgin Atlantic**

Travelling with Virgin Atlantic is a quality experience. In Economy, seats have a minimum of 31” of seat pitch and seatback TV screens. Premium Economy seats feature 38” of seat pitch, a dedicated check in and your main meal served on china dinnerware. Alternatively, experience the Upper Class Suite where seats convert to become one of the longest fully flat beds in business class. Combine this with a chauffeur driven car (1), award winning Clubhouses (2), and an arrival lounge at Heathrow and Virgin Atlantic’s Upper Class is the ultimate travel experience.

(1) Chauffeur driven car available at most destinations and with selected Upper Class fares. Restrictions apply.

(2) Lounge facilities vary at each destination.
Air Mauritius
Air Mauritius has frequent UK connections with code share partners from regional airports via Heathrow and Paris to Mauritius. With direct flights from Heathrow, Air Mauritius offers the choice of an overnight or a day time service from Mauritius to the UK. Economy class is already recognised as one of the world’s best long-haul economy products. Next generation seats, audio and video on demand and a superior food and beverage service create an economy class that exceeds expectation. In Business Class, you will find lie-flat cocoon seats and 60” seat pitches.

SriLankan Airlines
SriLankan Airlines utilises modern Airbus aircraft from Heathrow to Colombo. All passengers have their own seatback screen, showing a selection of movie and TV channels along with 22 radio channels. Business Class passengers have a flat bed at 80” seat pitch to relax restfully and their own video player which can be viewed, ‘on demand’. There is also a free limo service within a 50 mile radius from Heathrow for clients travelling Business Class.

EVA Air
EVA Air flies non-stop daily flights from Heathrow to Bangkok’s Suvarnabhumi airport. A choice of three cabins caters for every need and budget; Economy Class enjoys ‘Audio-Visual on Demand’ in every seat, as well as an ergonomically designed 18.3” wide seat with a 33” pitch. Elite Class cabin boasts a 38” seat pitch and exquisite cuisine. Royal Laurel Class offers a first class experience for a business class fare. The 26” wide seat converts into a 180 degree, full recline flat bed, providing personal space galore.

Malaysia Airlines Berhad
Malaysia Airlines flies to more than 60 destinations every day and has received a 5 Star Airline award. It offers 14 weekly direct flights between the United Kingdom and Kuala Lumpur operated by the Airbus A380. Malaysia Airlines offer generous baggage allowances, Economy 30kg, Business 40kg and 50kg for First class. Its first class and business cabins offers spacious surroundings, fine dining and comfortable flat beds. Great entertainment is offered onboard including up to 50 movies.

Singapore Airlines
Currently the world’s most awarded airline, Singapore Airlines has one of the world’s youngest aircraft fleet and offers worldwide connections as part of Star Alliance. The luxurious First Class Suite offers a private world of comfort and indulgence with a flat bed with duvet and pillows. Enjoy the Business Class cabin also featuring a lie flat bed. Premium Economy Class features a 38” seat pitch and 35kg baggage allowance whilst Economy Class innovative design maximises knee and legroom. All cabins feature entertainment on demand with a large personal video screen, and of course beautifully prepared meals.

Thai Airways
Thai Airways consistently wins awards from international bodies for their service levels and superior cuisine. THAI operates a modern fleet offering four different cabin options including Royal First Class, Royal Silk Class and Economy Class. The THAI interactive AVOD (Audio Visual On Demand) in-flight entertainment options will suit every taste. With a unique and charming Thai culture and tradition, a warm and friendly welcome awaits you.

Turkish Airlines
Turkish Airlines flies to over 200 worldwide destinations and is rated as a four star airline by Skytrax. There is a choice of around 350 films and short programmes on personal screens*. Economy Class offers a seat pitch of 31” and Turkish inspired or International meals, Comfort Class provides an upgraded meal and a seat pitch of 46” whilst Business Class passengers may expect a Champagne welcome drink, 75” fully reclining seats* and access to the airport CIP lounge.*Selected aircraft.

Jet Airways
With its first flight in 1993, Jet Airways has come a long way to becoming one of the fastest growing airlines. Connecting 20 international destinations and operating flights to and from 45 destinations in India, Jet Airways offers one of the youngest fleets in the world. Choose from First, Premier or Economy class where service and style ensure passengers enjoy the finest experience in the skies. Flights from the UK operate from London Heathrow, twice daily to Mumbai and daily to Delhi, with connections across the sub-continent.

Cathay Pacific
Cathay Pacific has been in operation since the 1940s and is one of the major pioneers of international travel. Based in Hong Kong, and operating a fleet of over 135 wide-bodied aircraft, award winning service remains at the heart of the airline. Flying 4 times daily from Heathrow to Hong Kong and onwards across Asia, Cathay Pacific has 4 cabins to choose from: First, Business, Premium Economy, and Economy.

Vietnam Airlines
Flying directly to both Ho Chi Minh and Hanoi, Vietnam Airlines is the gateway carrier to Indochina, operating a modern fleet from London Heathrow. Seat pitch varies across the 3 cabin configuration; 59 inches in business class, 36-38 inches in Deluxe Economy and 31-32 inches in Economy Class, all combined with friendly service and a wide selection of meals and beverages.
Essential Holiday Information

Accommodation
The hotels featured in our brochure and on our website are, in our opinion, high-quality establishments, though not all of them are right for you. Some ‘luxury’ means a notch ‘get away-from-it-all’ retreat, while others expect a glamorous international resort. Taking time to build up your expectations, visit our website and discuss your particular requirements with our destination specialists will ensure that we can select your dream holiday. We can also arrange to book accommodation that is not featured in our brochure or that perhaps you have selected yourself. While we have absolutely no reason to believe that your selection would not be a totally acceptable standard, our personal endorsement cannot be provided, nor any assurances or warranties in respect of the standard of facilities or levels of service.

When a hotel description states ‘a sea view’ or ‘ocean view’ this may in fact only be a partial or restricted view. In triple rooms, the third bed may be a rollaway extra bed. Many hotels may charge for some of the land and water activities listed. As many of our hotels are in a tropical climate, they may affect unaccompanied visitors of the insect variety. This is part and parcel of tropical life and rarely indicates a lack of hygiene. However, if you do have concerns we recommend that you voice them to the Daily Manager while in resort.

Hotels can introduce charges for facilities which have been previously included e.g. Children’s club facilities, baby sitting services etc.

Airport taxes
Generally speaking the airport taxes are incorporated in the package price you have paid. Occasionally airports will apply a Departure Tax which requires to be paid in cash before your return flight. Please refer to the ‘Pledge / Surcharges’ section in our Booking Conditions which explains when you may have to pass these taxes in airports on your tour.

Alcohol and Drugs
Restrictive legislation against the carriage of alcohol, prescription medication, or other drugs is increasingly common in destinations worldwide.

To make the most of your trip visit gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice for up to date information governing alcohol, prescription medication, other drugs and restrictions on smoking / electronic cigarettes.

All Inclusive holidays
Where one of our resorts offers an All Inclusive product, it is worth noting that the All Inclusive aspect may start and finish at certain times on the dates of arrival and departure.

Resorts may occasionally alter the specific terms of their All Inclusive package at short notice and this is something beyond our control.

Baggage allowance
Luggage allowances and permitted items including electronic devices, vary from airline to airline and we recommend that you check the luggage policy of the airline(s) with which you are flying. Any excess baggage will be charged at the discretion of the airline. Please note that generally speaking, a lower luggage allowance will apply to most internal flights and some transfers.

Check-in times
It is your responsibility to respect the check-in times specified by the airline on which you are travelling, and to ensure that you arrive at your point of call at your allocated time of flight. If Only... is unable to accept any liability if you miss your flight as a result of your late check-in or connection being delayed.

Christmas, New Year and other Peak Seasons
It is commonplace for guests staying in resort hotels over the Christmas, New Year or other Peak Season periods to pay a supplement for compulsory additional services, such as gala dinners. It may also be necessary to pre-book restaurants during peak periods and there may also be a minimum night’s stay requirement at some hotels, please enquire at time of booking. Some of our resorts also implement more stringent cancellation fees for peak season bookings.

Credit Cards
At most resorts and airports across the globe, credit cards are essential as they will be required to guarantee your hotel extras bill when you check-in.

Disabled Travellers
The enjoyment of your holiday is important to us but we recognise that some of the tours, cruises and holidays we offer may not be suitable for clients with reduced mobility or special requirements. As such we strongly recommend that suitability is discussed prior to making your booking. We are happy to provide personal advice on whether a particular hotel is suitable for your needs as we understand that this may seriously impair the enjoyment of your holiday we will provide at the time of booking. Final flight times will be detailed on your travel documentation, please check these times carefully.

Government and Health Advice
Should you have any concerns regarding travelling due to political unrest, potential violence etc. we would also recommend that you access the government websites at www.gov.uk.

Health
It is imperative when travelling to our destinations that you consult your GP or local health clinic before booking your trip and before travelling to make sure that you have taken all the necessary health precautions. Other sources of information include gov.uk and health.uk.net. As conditions can change quickly, please also check the current requirements of the destination you are visiting close to your departure date. Some countries will require additional certification or visas from travellers who may have been in regions of epidemic.

You must also, at time of booking, inform Only... of any pre-existing medical conditions or disability which may affect your holiday. Passengers who have reached 28 weeks in their pregnancy may not be accepted by the majority of airlines or by some hotels so please enquire at time of booking.

If you plan to travel to any of our hotels that are above 3000 metres and have circulatory, heart or respiratory problems then please consult your doctor before booking.

Please note that you are strongly advised against scuba diving for 24 hours before travelling by air.

Hotel Classification
Across the regions of the world that we feature there is no standardised classification and grading of hotels. However we appreciate that a ‘star’ rating is often the feature by which we consider a resort or hotel for your holiday. Yes hopefully we have included the official star rating as provided by that destination’s official tourism authority. If this is not available we have used other hotels supplies to apply the star rating that they normally use.

This is not a categorisation implemented by If Only... but a reflection of what each hotel or resort considers their classification grading to be, so it is important to read carefully the individual hotel descriptions. Our specialists can also help in explaining the services, facilities and standards of each hotel or resort that we visit.

Locality Pledges
If requested to do so, we will arrange and hotel loyalty programme membership numbers to your booking where possible, but please note that on some of our specially negotiated rates ‘points’ or ‘miles’ are not always awarded.

Maintenance Work
In order to maintain high standards, hotel renovation is a continual process, particularly in the low season. In this event, hotel management will ensure that any disturbance to guests is restricted to the absolute minimum. If we have been made aware of any significant renovation programme, we will advise you before travel.

In some of our destinations construction work is commonplace and we will use our best endeavours to ensure that you are advised in advance of any intended works within your hotel or in the immediate vicinity. Hotels are not liable for any building works or developments taking place out of their property and gardens. Therefore decisions to amend bookings are entirely at the discretion of the hotel’s owners. Some works may be unscheduled and therefore we would appreciate you informing us before you depart. Regrettably we cannot accept responsibility for such improvements/building renovation works but if we are the opinion that this may seriously impact the enjoyment of your holiday we will offer you the opportunity to transfer to an alternative hotel of comparable standard. If the alternative arrangements require payment of an extra cost, the difference will be payable by you. Should an alternative of a comparable standard be unavailable, if Only... will give you the option to cancel and you will be given a full refund.
Our Booking Conditions

Please read the conditions below before downloading and completing our Booking Form from ifonly.net.

2 PAYMENT TERMS

When you make your booking, you must pay a non-refundable deposit of 10% of your total holiday cost or £200 per person, whichever is the greater. Additionally, weddings will incur a further deposit of £150. Some services require higher deposits and early balance payments and you will be advised of this at the time of booking. This may limit the rights of cancellation.

Otherwise, the balance of the price of your travel arrangements should be received by us at least ten weeks before your departure date. If the deposit and/or balance is not paid in time we have the right to cancel your travel arrangements. If the balance is not paid in time we shall retain your deposit. If the booking is made within 10 weeks of departure then full payment is required at time of booking. We reserve the right to amend our prices at any time prior to you booking your holiday.

3 Exchange Rates

Prices shown have been calculated using current exchange rates, however as rates do change quickly this might affect published brochure prices. USD 1.27, EUR 1.11, AED 4.66, THB 43.11, OMR 0.48, MYR 5.16, HKD 9.94, SGD 1.75 and INR 79.99.

4 PRICE PLEDGE / SURCHARGES

Changes in transportation costs, including the cost of fuel, duties, taxes or fees chargeable for services such as landing taxes or fees at airports; and exchange rates mean that the price of your travel arrangements may change after booking. However there will be no price change within 30 days of your departure.

Should your holiday price increase, you will not be charged for any amount equivalent to 2% of the price of your holiday. You will only have to pay the amount over and above the 2% of your holiday cost, up to a maximum of 10%. Added to this will be an administration charge of £1 per person together with an amount to cover agents’ commission.

If there is an increase of more than 10% of the holiday cost, you will have the option of accepting a change to another holiday, if we are able to offer one, or cancelling and receiving a full refund of all monies paid excluding any amendment charges. Should you decide to cancel for this reason, you must exercise your right to do so within 14 days from the issue date printed on your final invoice. Should the price of your holiday go down due to the changes mentioned above, by more than 2% of your holiday cost, then any refund due will be paid to you.

However, please note that travel arrangements are not always purchased in local currency and some apparent changes have no impact on the price of your journey due to contractual and other protection in place. Some governments are known to unilaterally increase the rate of Goods, Service, tourism, Municipality Bed or Airport Tax with very little notice. In the event that this should occur after your booking has been made, but prior to 30 days before departure, we reserve the right to levy any eligible surcharge against you and will inform you of the reasons for any such increase.

If we become aware of a planned surcharge that may affect your holiday price after you have booked, we may contact you to request earlier/interim payment. In some circumstances this request would avoid the necessity of passing these increases onto you.

5 CANCELLATION (BY YOU)

Should you choose to cancel your booking then notification must be made to us in writing and the cancellation will be effective from the date of receipt. Cancellation charges are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. days before departure</th>
<th>Amount of full holiday cost payable:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than 70 days</td>
<td>deposit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43 to 69 days</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 to 42 days</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 to 21 days</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 to 13 days</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The cancellation charges set out above apply to all bookings except where a booking includes items or services where the suppliers’ cancellation charges exceed those shown above. In these cases we can provide you with a copy of our suppliers’ terms on request, but please note that 100% cancellation charges may apply in some circumstances. Please enquire at the time of booking. If the reason for your cancellation is covered under the terms of your insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

6 CANCELLATION (BY US)

We reserve the right in any circumstances to cancel your travel arrangements. However, we will not cancel your travel arrangements less than ten weeks before your departure date, except for reasons of force majeure (see below) or failure by you to pay the final balance.

Should a duplicate reservation be made on the same airline that is not booked by If Only... but is made by you or your agent, then the booking with If Only... may be subject to cancellation or additional charges if we cannot secure your ticket at the same fare. In such circumstances any funds paid to If Only... will not be refundable.

If we are unable to provide the booked travel arrangements, you can either have a refund of all monies paid or accept an offer of alternative travel arrangements of comparable standard from us. If it is necessary to cancel your travel arrangements, compensation will be payable in accordance with the table contained in clause 8 below, except where the cancellation is caused by circumstances amounting to force majeure (see below).
7 AMENDMENTS (BY YOU) If after a confirmation number has been issued, you wish to amend your holiday booking at any time we will endeavour to be of assistance but amendments will not always be possible. A request to amend must be made in writing by the person who made the booking or by the group leader. We are unable to accept changes, an amendment fee of £50 per person, per change plus any further cost we incur in making this alteration will be charged and payable at time of change. You should be aware that these costs could increase the closer to the departure date, or once travel has commenced, that changes are made and you should confirm this in writing as soon as possible.

Certain travel arrangements may not be changeable after a reservation has been made and any alteration request could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements. Major amendments such as changing the dates of travel or number of passengers travelling may be treated as a cancellation and rebooking or may involve a recalculation of the holiday cost.

8 AMENDMENTS (BY US) As arrangements are made many months in advance we have to reserve the right to make changes to brochure and details both before and after you have booked your holiday. Any such changes may be likely to be minor and we will advise you or your travel agent at the earliest possible opportunity. A change affecting a stay in a hotel during a tour where the hotel itself is not the focus of the tour, does not constitute Force Majeure. If the change may be deemed to be a major one: e.g. a change to a lower official classification of accommodation than that shown in the brochure, we will tell you as soon as possible and you will have three options:

(a) accept the changes as notified
(b) purchase an alternative Itinerary Only, holiday
(c) cancel your holiday and receive a full refund of monies paid.

In the event of (a), (b), or (c) above, except where change arises due to reason of force majeure, we will compensate per paying passenger as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of days before departure</th>
<th>Compensation per paying passenger</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than 70 days</td>
<td>nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43 to 69 days</td>
<td>£10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 to 42 days</td>
<td>£20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 28 days</td>
<td>£30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 to 14 days</td>
<td>£35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9 INSURANCE It is a condition of booking your holiday that you take out suitable insurance cover at the time of making your reservation. Your insurance must include cover for your total holiday price in the event of cancellation or curtailment as well as the cost of repatriation in the event of sickness or death whilst on holiday. It is your responsibility to arrange suitable and adequate travel insurance.

10 SCHEDULED AIRLINES Air transportation is by scheduled services. We operate scheduled air services to all countries or regions included in this brochure. Such alterations do not constitute a significant change to your holiday arrangements and you will not therefore be entitled to cancel or change to another holiday. You will be responsible for accepting the change to your itinerary. Your air flight is subject to the EU Regulation 261/2004 on Denied Boarding, Cancelling and Delays, by which you have a right to compensation for appropriate reimbursement. Further information can be found at abta.co.uk. Further compensation may be available from your insurance policy. Compensation is not due from us in the event of a delay of less than 5 hours on a domestic flight, or in respect of anyone’s control such as strikes, weather, unavoidable breakdown.

This brochure is not issued on behalf of, and does not commit the airlines mentioned herein or any airline whose services are used in the course of your travel arrangements. Please note that in accordance with Air Navigation Orders in order to qualify for infant status, a child must be under 2 years of age on the date of its return flight.

11 FORCE MAJEURE We will not pay you compensation if we have to cancel or change your travel arrangements in any way because of unusual or unforeseeable circumstances beyond our control. These can include but are not limited to: war, riot, industrial disputes, terrorist activity and its consequences, natural or nuclear disaster, fire, adverse weather conditions, epidemics and pandemics, unavoidable technical problems with accommodation.

Advice from the government to avoid or limit a particular country may constitute Force Majeure. We will follow the advice given by the Foreign Office in the UK.

12 YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES Any passports, visas, health certificates, International Driving Licences, entry requirements and other travel documents required for your holiday must be obtained by you, whose responsibility it is to ensure that they are in order and that you have obtained any additional costs incurred (whether by you or us) as a result of failure to comply with such requirements.

You are responsible to arrive at stated departure times and places and any loss or damage which you suffer through failure to do so lies with you. We have no liability whatsoever to you through your failure to do so. In the UK, the Foreign & Commonwealth Advice Unit may have issued information about your holiday destination. You are advised to check this information at direct.gov.uk/broward abroad.
Please refer to our other brochures for more exciting destinations.

Reservations: 0141 955 4000
After Sales: 0141 955 4041
Accounts: 0141 955 4042

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