



Tiwari *tours and travel*

Tour Operator India & Nepal • Small Group Journeys

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Delhi - Kathmandu Overland Tour **Follow the 1970's Hippie Trail - 20 Days**

**India - Delhi – Agra – Orchha – Khajarahho - Varanasi –
Nepal - Royal Chitwan National Park – Pokhara -
Kathmandu**

This magnificent route from India to Nepal is one of the original journeys that travellers took in the 60's and 70's when Nepal was opening up to foreigners. The journey takes in the splendors of Northern India and the mountain Kingdom of Nepal. It's a varied journey, starting in Delhi, and taking you into the remote lush forests of Orchha, the Kama Sutra Chandela temples in Khajarahho and the holy Hindu city of Varanasi. Once in Nepal, you will witness all the wildlife splendor of "Royal Chitwan National Park" and have the opportunity to be face to face with elephants and Rhinos! Pokhara is next and the most popular destination in Nepal after Kathmandu. Its fame rests on the natural beauty of the lakeside location and its proximity to the mountains. The tour finishes in Kathmandu. This amazing city seems, in places unchanged since the middle ages, Kathmandu has an artistic and architectural tradition that rivals anything you'll find in the great cities of Europe!.

The tour includes Tiwari Travels special addition of learning Yoga and Meditation along the way. We take along with us on tour an Indian Yoga teacher, who will conduct a daily yoga and meditation class, just as the hippies did back in the 1970's! You don't need to be of any yoga standards, beginners and advanced will all be catered for.

This tour is for people who wish to travel a little differently outside the normal group tour environment and have a true local personal experience. Tiwari Travel is a small Indian family run business and you will all be treated like part of the family. You will have the opportunity to visit and spend time with local families, including taking part in our infamous "Tiwari family cooking classes in Varanasi!"

Daily Tour Itinerary

Day 1/2 Delhi

Orientation and days sightseeing. A city full of architectural wonders, Old Delhi has the magnificent Jama Masjid, the Red Fort and the cremation site of Mahatma Gandhi, and the aromatic old spice markets. In New Delhi there is India Gate, the Parliament House and Connaught Circus for great shops and restaurants. Our hotel is based in the popular market area of Karol Bagh.

Day 3/4 - Agra

Early morning drive to Agra (approx. 4 hrs) home of the Taj Mahal! Settle into hotel and wander the shops and markets, visit a carpet shop and take a sunset boat ride to view the Taj Mahal from the Yamuna River. Next day up at sunrise to enter the Taj Mahal. The afternoon is set aside for a visit to Agra Fort, with more magnificent views of the Taj Mahal.



Day 5/6 Orchha

Early morning scenic drive from Khajuraho to Orchha. Known as “Hidden Place”, Orchha certainly lives up to its name, languishing amid a tangle of scrubby Dhak Forests! Situated on the banks of the Betwa River, this sleepy village of market stalls, derelict palaces make an excellent spot to unwind. The Betwa River is a great place for a swim. Yoga will be in the grounds of our traditional Havali hotel and the evenings we will dine on the roof of an eighteenth century castle, while watching some classical Indian dancing.

Day 7/8 - Khajuraho

The greatest achievement of the Chandella dynasty, these erotic “Kama Sutra” temples were built between the tenth and twelfth centuries AD and are among the most essential stops on any itinerary of India’s historic monuments. There is a fantastic 2 hour audio tour to really take you back into ancient times with music and narrative. We stay at a wonderful hotel with pool where we can practice yoga and take an evening dip. The evenings will be spent watching a spectacular sound and light show over the temples while dining on a rooftop restaurant.

Day 9/10/11 Varanasi

Leave early enroute the Holy Hindu city of Varanasi. We have 3 days here to explore the narrow laneways of the old city, go on a sunrise and sunset boat trip along the Ganges River and visit the a vast array of ancient temples. We can practice yoga and listen to some classical Indian music on the rivers edge, while sipping Chai...



Day 12/13 - Royal Chitwan National Park

From Varanasi it's a days drive over the boarder into the Chitwan Valley. Since the 19th century this valley was a centre for the hunting trips for British and Nepali aristocrats. The national park was formed in 1973 and since then animal populations has rebounded. Today the park offers one of the finest wildlife experiences in Asia. Home to Rhinos, alligators and elephants! We will have the opportunity to embark on a day jungle safari, visit the elephant breeding centre, cycle around the local villages and of course dine at the many restaurants while watching the sunset on the river...



Day 14/15 – Pokhara

At true cultural wonder, and only a half day drive from Chitway, we shall spend our time relaxing on Pokharas lakeside area, while enjoying the backdrop of the snow-capped Himalaya! We shall do a one of the many day walks in and around Pokhara and spend a few hours at the Gorkha's Fort Palace and temple complex. A triumph of Nepal architecture, offering superb views of the surrounding valleys and mountains.

Day 16/17/18/19 – Kathmandu, Patan, Bhaktapur

Leave early for days drive through glorious mountain countryside to the capital of Kathmandu. The will embark on many of the “walking tours” exploring the many interesting ancient sites that Kathmandu and its surrounding areas has to offer, including Durbar Square, Swayambhunath (The Monkey Temple) Patan and the ancient town of Bhaktapur. We shall hang out in “Freak Street” (Jochine real name) Kathmandu most famous hang out in the old hippie days of the 60's and 70's. In its hippy days this was the place for cheap hotels, colour restaurants hashish shops and of course the weird and wonderful “freaks” which gave the street its name! The popular district of Thamel, is more the place these days, however Freak Street has some interesting as it is right in the heart of old Kathmandu.



Tour Details

Tour Cost - \$3899 AUD fully inclusive (excluding airfare and 10% service tax)

Tour Dates....This tour runs in the months of, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, March, April, May.

What the Tour includes:

Tour itinerary preparation and advice.

Airport Pickup

All hotels, guesthouses based on twin share basis with attached bath

Meals - all continental breakfasts - generally cereal, toast jam, egg/omelet tea or coffee

1 x main meal per day – generally vegetarian North Indian food.

Transport – Private Toyota Commercial 4WD vehicles, with English speaking drivers for the whole trip from Delhi to KTM. Vehicle taxes & insurance, road tolls, 1 x Tour Leader, **Indian**

Yoga Teachers – 15 classes. Classes begin in Agra and end in Kathmandu with trip

All sightseeing and entrance fees to sights as stated in the itinerary

Local tour guides

Fee free Foreign currency exchange in Tiwari shop – Varanasi

Sunrise and Sunset boat rides in Varanasi

Side trip to Sarnath near Varanasi – Buddhist site

Indian cooking class in Varanasi

What the Tour Does Not include...

Nepalese Visa at boarder \$30USD per person.

Bottled Mineral water, extra food/meals outside what is stated.

Drinks, tea/coffees, desserts/sweets, any personal items.

Laundry

Local transport around the cities, ie 3 wheeler auto and cycle rickshaws, (very cheap!)

Any domestic flights, travel insurance, tipping, extra nights for hotel outside tour dates, Luggage porters at train stations

Taj Mahal entrance fee

Any individual sightseeing entrance fees etc outside organized itinerary with group

Indian music events

Elephant ride in Chitwan National Park

Trip Extensions...

Tiwari Tours is able to advise and organise any further travel for you before or at the end of the tour.

Airport Pickup....The Tiwari Tour Leader will meet and greet all passengers on your arrival at the airport. Arrival taxi fare to hotel is covered. However airport departure in Kathmandu at the end of tour is not covered. Those wishing to go back to India may join the Tiwari cars back down via Varnanasi.

Accommodation... All hotels are 3/4 star and based on twin share basis, with attached bathrooms and a/c. Please let us know if you request a single room. (extra \$650 per person for 14nights) Hotels are generally 12noon checkout. In cases of late check out Tiwari will hold 1 or 2 rooms for group to share. If you require late check-out in your own room, you will need to pay additional night accommodation.

Transport... Private Toyota Qualis 4WD tourist vehicles, local taxis, minivans, cycle & auto 3 wheeler rickshaws, walking

Physical Fitness and Cultural Shock...

On this tour, you will require basic fitness, enough for the tolerance of daily walking, hot weather and some long hours of travel in cars. At times you will need to use the great outdoors for toilet stops, or Indian squat loos. You need to let go of your western ways and let things happen as they do in India! Occasionally we may experience power cuts, no hot water and flat tyres! But all in all, it will be eye opener for all! Please advise us in advance if you have any health issues or are taking any form of medication. All is confidential.

Money/Budget... Allow approx. \$800 AUD miscellaneous expenses for 20days. If you intend to shop till you drop bring more! Tiwari Travel can arrange your cash/travellers cheques to be changed at the hotel on your arrival. ATM's are also available in main cities for visa cash advances. Check with your bank for international transaction fees!

Meals...Continental breakfasts included (1 cup tea/coffee, omelette, toast with jam, corn flakes & milk) One main meal per day. (either lunch or dinner dependant on travel) Passengers will be required to pay any additional food items themselves. Mineral water, drinks, deserts/sweets, extra tea/coffee etc are not included.

Yoga Teacher...Our Indian Yoga Teachers travels with us on the tour. He/she is a qualified experienced Indian Yogi with a wealth of traditional teachings to pass on. You will have the opportunity to vastly improve you practice over 2 weeks of daily classes. The Yoga teacher will also spend time with each person to gauge your needs and yoga level.

Keep in Mind.....Tiwari Tour groups travel in a way that fully appreciates cultures and lifestyles very different to our own. While striving to provide the very best holiday possible, we don't shield you from the cultural differences, inefficiencies and frustrations that are a part of traveling in India and Nepal. Indeed the emphasis is on getting out there amongst the chaos, vibrancy that is India and experiencing all the country has to offer, warts and all! Please be patient with us and remember to just "let things flow" We expect a group to follow the guiding and advice of the tour leader for safety issues and to accommodate all people on the tour.

Tipping...It is customary to tip on all services in India and Nepal, including hotels, restaurants, transport, porters, room service etc. We ask that everyone contributes generously by either forming a group tip kitty or paying themselves as we go along. We can advise anytime on correct amounts to be given as tipping is not included in price of tour.

What to bring...

Please travel as light as possible, everything you will need is available in India. The requirement is one backpack/suitcase per person, plus a day pack. Bring light comfortable clothing for walking and yoga. Yoga mat, Hat/cap, thongs, trekking shoes/sandshoes, shawl, scarf, beanie for early mornings! Long cotton pants, t-shirts, long sleeved shirt, light pullover, jacket, tracky dacks, mossy repellent, a torch for night. Remember India and Nepal are conservative, no short shorts or short skirts. All leg wear must be below the knee and shoulders covered!

Booking Terms & Conditions

Validity of Tour Itinerary

Tiwari guarantees to provide all excursions stated in the itinerary to our passengers. If any unforeseen circumstances occur, where Tiwari Travel is unable to complete the complete itinerary items, while on tour, Tiwari Travel shall endeavour to match the service as close as possible. There are no refunds once tour commences.

Exchange Rate

Price is based on the costs and exchange rates current at date of quote Conversion from Australian Dollars to Indian Rupees based \$1 – 34 Rs. This is non changeable.

Responsibility

You acknowledge that travel in India and Nepal requires a degree of flexibility and understand that hotels, accommodation, and the itinerary are subject to change.

Payments

20% deposit to confirm booking required to Meredith Wilks (Tiwari Travel Sydney office) via either Direct bank deposit, cheque or cash. Final payment due 1 month prior to departure.

Cancellations by Passenger

Deposits not refunded at any cost. Final Payment refunded with 1 month notice.

Cancellation by Tiwari Tours & Travel

Please see website for Terms and Conditions.

Private Tour Booking Amendments

If you wish to change your booking (after paid deposit) in any way (ie. which will require us to change hotel booking etc) a fee of \$50 per person will apply each change.

Disclaimer

Its is a pre-requisite of acceptance of travelling/booking with Tiwari Tours & Travel, that all passengers remove any form of responsibility from Tiwari Tours & Travel and its staff in the event of personal accident or injury or any personal loss due to travel to India. It is also a pre-requisite that all passengers have fully comprehensive travel insurance.

Guarantee

Tiwari Travel guarantees, once payment has been made, to provide you the passenger with the travel services indicated in the itinerary. Please take the time to read our website for further details on health & safety, travel insurance, visas etc.

Tour Changes

Due to nature of India and things running to “Indian time” the itinerary is subject to minor changes.

Thanks for choosing Tiwari Tours & Travel

Namaste!