Abercrombie & Kent

INDIA & THE ORIENT

A kaleidoscope of cultures, ancient empires and sensory adventures in Central Asia, India and the alluring lands of the Far East.

2019-2020 TRAVELS
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Dear Traveller,

It would be churlish of me, of all people, to admit to travel envy. Yet when our Australian office asked me to introduce this new India & Orient portfolio, my first thought was Australia really is the lucky country, blessed with so many of these extraordinary travel experiences so close to home.

For me – as for many people who spent their formative years nearer the prime meridian than the International Dateline – India and ‘The Far East’ are synonymous with everything exquisite and exotic. When we established Abercrombie & Kent in the 1960s, luxury adventures in the Orient were always part of our plans. And we don’t do things by half-measures at A&K.

We first travelled to India in the 1970s. I was lucky to be able to leverage my Sandhurst connections and polo renown, especially a love of the game among the royal families of Rajasthan, to establish the networks we needed to succeed in India and access the calibre of properties and experiences we wanted for our guests.

Between exhibition matches at storybook palaces, I learned early on that India does luxury like nowhere else on earth, drawing on the legacies of history’s greatest empires.

My first experience of a luxury Delhi hotel was unforgettable, all marble and gold outshone by impeccable service and unexpected serenity. It makes little sense to speak in terms of numbers of stars for hotels where the sky is the limit.

On the same trip, I stayed as a guest of the legendary Maharani Ayesha in the royal family’s private mansion in Jaipur. We visited not only marvellous palaces and forts, but also schools and hospitals supported by the family. It was a lesson in gracious living and whole-hearted community responsibility that has been an inspiration for the way we’ve conducted our business and treated our guests and community partners in India and around the world in the decades since.

I was first in China in the late 1970s, as China was re-emerging as a destination after the Cultural Revolution. Again, we went in whole-heartedly on a two-month reconnaissance mission, following as I liked to think in the footsteps of Marco Polo, visiting all the major sights and centres, and many others almost unknown in the west at the time.

I have so many indelible memories from that first trip and many since: the staggering scale of the Great Wall; sailing through the sublime Three Gorges on the Yangtze River; the Silk Road cities of Urumqi, Turfan and Dunhuang; visiting the roof of the world in Tibet.

We now have more than a dozen offices in East Asia, with hundreds of travel experts on the ground taking the world’s most discerning travellers on extraordinary journeys in every country in the region. And all so close to your own part of the world.

Half your luck! Enjoy exploring.

Geoffrey Kent
Founder, Chairman and CEO of the Abercrombie & Kent Group of Companies
@geoffrey_kent

“Wherever you go, go with all your heart.”
— Confucius
Why Choose an A&K Journey

Abercrombie & Kent takes you to the heart of a destination in extraordinary style and comfort, with authentic local insight, unforgettable experiences and encounters, and exclusive access privileges.

The Leader in Luxury Travel Experiences
For over half a century, Abercrombie & Kent has been a pioneer in the world of luxury travel, redefining the notion of what is possible on holiday and delivering travel experiences that change the way travellers see the world and see themselves. We’ve made it our business to specialise in destinations and itineraries that are extraordinary, creating exquisite adventures handcrafted to exceed the expectations of even the most discerning travellers.

A Global Network
Unlike other travel companies, who rely entirely on third parties to create their programmes and support their travellers on the ground, A&K itineraries are backed by over 2,500 handpicked staff in our 55 offices worldwide, including 16 offices in India and East Asia. Through this network of experts, we have the knowledge and resources to create memorable journeys and take care of every detail before, during and after your journey.

Local Presence & Privileges
When you travel with A&K, we don’t just take you to the front of the line, we take you into the rooms in the palace not typically open to visitors, or on an exclusive tour with the best historian in the region. This kind of unencumbered access to the authentic heart and soul of a place – to the people and sites that exist far beyond the reach of the average traveller – is something we pride ourselves on and ensure we deliver on every journey we create, whether to the region’s most iconic luxury travel destinations, or to more off-the-grid and under-the-radar places and experiences.

Dedicated Travel Specialists
Our Travel Specialists regard travel not as an occasional diversion, but as a calling that stimulates the mind and nourishes the spirit. Exceptionally well-travelled individuals with an average of more than 10 years’ travel industry experience, each is an expert in their chosen region of the world. They’re also born adventurers who can advise on the best places to visit because they’ve usually travelled there themselves. They’re in constant touch with A&K’s partners and our network of offices throughout the region and throughout the world, with access to the most up-to-date information at their fingertips. Your Travel Specialist will also come to know you as an individual, either through your travel agent or directly with you, one traveller to another, to make sure your journey is everything you want it to be.

Expert Local Guides
It is often said that a guide can make or break a special journey. We agree. A&K’s guides are the best in the world and deliver superlative experiences in every destination. All are blessed with extensive knowledge and the ability to bring local attractions to life. Multilingual and well-travelled, each possesses insight into diverse attractions and cultural interactions throughout the region, enlightening you in every locale with insider information that adds depth to your journey.

Safety You Can Trust
With experience comes excellence and reliability, and with A&K this translates to peace of mind and security. The safety of our guests is always our priority. Our network of local offices and long-established relationships in this region, and in every region in which we operate, allows us to keep our finger on the pulse of local dynamics and developments. If unexpected events occur, A&K has resources at the ready, and you can rely on us to go the extra mile to ensure your wellbeing and allow you to safely continue your journey.
TRULY LUXURIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS THAT INSPIRE, ENHANCE & DELIGHT

The quality of the accommodation we use is one of the many things that sets an A&K journey apart. On all hand-crafted private and small group journeys, we select only the most remarkable hotels, boutique lodges and ships, each of which must combine superior service, a sense of place, local character and unanticipated luxuries.

Award-Winning, Iconic Hotels
When luxury is what you’re looking for, there’s no reason to settle for second-best. Our local experts choose only the very best hotels in a given destination. In many cases, their choice will be the undisputed local favourite, synonymous with five-star style, often a Condé Nast Traveler Gold List or Travel + Leisure World’s Best property. But the choice might also be a whispered secret, a better option, a small but perfectly-formed boutique property with a certain significant atmospheric, experiential or locational advantage.

One-of-a-Kind Locations
When considering an hotel, our experts look at more than just the rooms. Wherever possible, we arrange for you to stay close to the places you most want to see, close to the people you’ll most enjoy meeting, and close to the experiences you’ll most enjoy discovering. We’ll choose the right option from within the region’s best properties, whether historically iconic, coveted high-design or supremely located on the edge of a wilderness or overlooking the water.

Stylish Expedition Vessels and Small Ships
Our commitment to luxury and quality doesn’t stop at the water’s edge: When it comes to expedition or river cruising with A&K, step aboard knowing you’ll experience the same comfort, service and style you would on land, all while discovering the beauty of life on the water.

Taj Lake Palace, India

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Seamless, Ready-To-Travel Private Journeys
We have extensively researched every journey in this brochure and every destination to which we travel. Each element of each itinerary is carefully considered in terms of guest enjoyment, travel logistics, and how it fits into the overall pace and flow of the journey. The result is the private journeys you see in this brochure, each one travelled and tested to ensure we present the destination in the best possible way in seamless style and comfort. These journeys are all designed to give you an incomparable travel experience, each is operated on a private basis for you and your travelling companions, and each is ready-to-book and ready-to-travel as it appears in this brochure.

Exquisite Small Group Journeys
A&K also offers an exclusive portfolio of small group journeys to a variety of the world’s and the region’s greatest luxury travel destinations, as well as journeys to more emerging and off-the-beaten track destinations. This brochure includes a selection of our small group journeys in Asia. These are expert-led shared adventures, with intimate group sizes of no more than 18 guests on our Luxury and Limited Edition Small Group Journeys, and guaranteed departures from the first two guests booked. Each of these journeys has been designed to ensure the right balance of guided activity and breathing room, the time and space for self-discovery in a destination, with local encounters and exclusive access to many attractions only available to a small group.

Luxury Expedition Cruises
This brochure also includes an extraordinary Luxury Expedition Cruise, ‘The Wonders of Japan’. Like every A&K expedition cruise, this is an all-inclusive luxury adventure aboard a superbly-outfitted mega-yacht transformed to meet our exacting standards for luxury, adventure and safety, and limited to just 199 guests. The voyage features a highly-curated itinerary impossible to replicate on land – visiting Japan’s four main islands and crossing the Sea of Japan to South Korea – with fine dining and an engaging programme of expert lectures, special events and curated shore excursions all included.

Bespoke Private Travel Service
A&K also offers a Bespoke Private Travel Service, and any of the destinations and itineraries included in this brochure can be adapted, amended and/or extended to meet your individual interests and requirements. Our Travel Specialists understand travel planning at a level even the most fastidious travellers never consider. Creating a Luxury Private Journey isn’t just about choosing hotels and arranging visits to museums or knowing the best time to see a landmark – it’s about giving you the kinds of uniquely inspiring experiences you may not even know exist, local encounters made possible only by A&K’s longstanding connections in the region and around the world.

Bespoke Private Travel means seeing India & The Orient exactly the way you want to see it, on an itinerary fashioned just for you by the region’s foremost experts and matched to your interests, your style and your budget.

Whether we’re working with your travel agent or directly with you, our Travel Specialists take the time to understand your ideal holiday, how you like to travel and the kinds of activities and experiences that will make your trip most meaningful to you. Then we create or curate a journey to match, with as much or as little direction from you as you want to provide, drawing on the expertise of the locals in our offices throughout Asia, ultimately developing or recommending an itinerary that will make your dream a reality.

All the Private Journeys in this brochure can be booked as shown or customised to suit your interests. For inspiration, check out the ‘Enhance Your Journey’ ideas accompanying each Private Journey, extraordinary travel experiences that can be added to the suggested itineraries shown.
CELEBRATE FAMILY AND FRIENDS

At A&K, we’re all about creating lasting memories for you, your family and your friends, spending time away together in the world’s most special places. Whether you’re gathering to celebrate a special milestone – a big birthday, anniversary, honeymoon or wedding – or simply a family get-together, we recognise that shared experiences are the most memorable, and we know how to tailor the journey to suit every dynamic.

Our Travel Specialists can create magical moments for every generation travelling. Imagine sharing a small palace with a group of friends in Rajasthan, or the look on a child’s or a parent’s face when they see a Giant Panda in Chengdu. Imagine the fun of a hands-on family cooking class in Delhi; or the friendly sibling rivalry on the last leg of a bike excursion in Vietnam.

A&K family adventures

India and East Asia are intriguing destinations for all ages, combining rich cultural experiences with vibrant cuisines and outdoor adventures ‘Jungle Book’ style. Some of our favourite family activities include:

• A friendly introduction to Indian cuisine at a family cooking class in the home of a Delhi resident. All willing participants are encouraged to roll up their sleeves for some hands-on roti making, spice blending and curry creation, tasting the fruits of their labour over a specially-hosted family lunch.

• The opportunity to see tigers in the wild on an invigorating safari through the national parks of Central India. From an open-sided 4WD vehicle, all eyes are peeled for the slightest movement through the tall grass or deep in the shadows of the teak forest. It’s an experience that will stay with you forever.

• Taking to the skies above Sigiriya in Sri Lanka in a hot air balloon to gaze over the incredible Rock Temple and the vast landscape beyond. An early start brings memorable rewards as you drift in the morning light marvelling at the skills of the 3rd century labourers who constructed this extraordinary monument.

• Cycling through the countryside around Hoi An, past rice fields, along canals and down waterways watching life go by. See local artisans at work and visit local farms and market gardens along the way, choosing produce and preparing lunch.

• Volunteering at the Dujiangyan Panda Base near Chengdu, where important research is being done on disease prevention and the rehabilitation of these extraordinary and endangered creatures.

A&K Milestone Celebrations

One of the best ways to mark a special occasion is to take up residence in your own fully-staffed villa or aboard your own luxury vessel. You decide who the guests are, and you set the daily timetable. A&K has access to some extraordinary seaside properties in Sri Lanka and Thailand, converted palaces in India, a houseboat on the Kerala backwaters or a junk on Halong Bay – all perfect venues for a milestone celebration or a multi-generation family adventure.

Other ways to mark the occasion include a floating celebration in Udaipur on the 150-year-old royal Gangaur boat, where an exclusive dinner on the waters of Lake Pichola is certain to wow. Or, receive your own private blessing from a Buddhist monk at the breathtaking Tiger’s Nest monastery in Bhutan. Or, get a bird’s eye view of the world’s highest peak on an Everest scenic flight. Your choice.
FLY SINGAPORE AIRLINES AND EXPERIENCE THE WORLD’S BEST

Enjoy extraordinary levels of comfort to more than 50 destinations across India and Asia.

Explore the world with the Skytrax World’s Best Airline for 2018, connecting you to the world from six cities in Australia via the acclaimed Singapore Changi Airport. With seats thoughtfully designed to ensure the highest level of comfort no matter your class of travel, you can relax with a flight experience as delightful as the destination. Savour meals created by a panel of world-renowned chefs, wines selected by three of the world’s leading wine experts and more than 1,000 on-demand entertainment options with KrisWorld. All this, complemented by award-winning service, makes Singapore Airlines a great way to fly.

SUITES
A new level of luxury awaits in Suites, with our new Airbus A380 offering just six of the exclusive cabins on board. There is even the ability to convert to a double Suite for those travelling together. With a leather-upholstered seat separate to the fully-flat bed, a 32” touchscreen monitor and a sliding door to screen away the outside world, you’ve never experienced flying quite like this.

BUSINESS CLASS
Designed with comfort in mind, Business Class offers the perfect space for work or rest. A handcrafted leather seat with a cushioned headboard transforms to a 78-inch fully-flat bed, and thoughtfully appointed stowage spaces mean all your items are within easy reach. Select from our Book the Cook service to enjoy restaurant-quality dining at 30,000 feet. (Seat shown available on Airbus A350-900 and Boeing 777-300ER)

FIRST CLASS
Luxuriate in an extra-wide seat, upholstered in hand-stitched leather with a sculpted headrest for extra comfort and extended partitions for additional privacy. Rest in a fully-flat bed, or catch up on business under ambient lights to suit your mood or activity. Reserve your main meal up to 24 hours prior to departure with Book the Cook to complete your luxury travel experience. (Seat shown available on B777-300ER aircraft)

PREMIUM ECONOMY
Set in a separate cabin in a 2-4-2 configuration, Premium Economy provides additional comfort, extra choices and exclusive privileges to enhance your travel experience. Recline in a 19.5-inch-wide leather upholstered seat complete with calf rest, catch up on the latest blockbuster on a 13.3-inch HD-enabled touchscreen monitor or sip on champagne throughout your flight. The choice is yours.
EXPERIENCE THE NEW MARCO POLO CLUB

A REWARDS PROGRAMME FOR FREQUENT A&K TRAVELLERS

Created to recognise and reward our most loyal guests, the Marco Polo Club® is open to everyone who travels on three or more journeys with Abercrombie & Kent.

Among the club’s benefits is a five-percent discount on almost any new booking made within nine months of returning from an A&K journey. This discount also applies to any immediate family member(s) travelling with the Marco Polo Club member. And solo travellers are entitled to a 50% discount on many single supplements booked at any time.

Marco Polo Club members also enjoy recognition in other ways with a place on the priority waitlist for sold-out journeys, a members-only onboard reception on A&K Luxury Expedition Cruises, and a variety of exclusive communications and events.

To learn more about A&K’s Marco Polo Club, visit www.abercrombiekent.com.au/marcopoloclub

TRAVEL THREE TIMES WITH A&K, AND YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAVE 5% ON A&K JOURNEYS. SOLO TRAVELLERS SAVE 50% ON SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS.

EARN QANTAS POINTS ON LUXURY TRAVEL

EARN 1 QANTAS POINT FOR EVERY AU$1 SPENT ON ELIGIBLE ITINERARIES*.

Abercrombie & Kent guests can earn Qantas Points when booking a luxury holiday. Qantas Frequent Flyer members will earn 1 Qantas Point for every dollar spent on an A&K land itinerary of seven nights or more (excludes taxes and credit card fees)*.

Visit our website to see the points you could earn when booking eligible itineraries.

*You must be a Qantas Frequent Flyer Member to earn and redeem Qantas Points. A joining fee may apply.

Frequent Flyer Members can earn 1 Qantas Point per AU$1 spent on Eligible Products. Eligible Product(s) means any new International or Domestic private journey with a land itinerary of seven nights or more, any 2018 Hosted Small Group Journey, or any 2019 Limited Edition Small Group Journey created by Abercrombie & Kent Australia. Excludes Flights. Qantas Points shall be awarded to you based upon the final amount spent on any Eligible Booking. Where a refund is applied after you return from your Eligible Booking, the final amount of Qantas Points awarded will be determined by the final amount paid less the refund amount. If Eligible Bookings are made in currencies other than AU$, the number of Qantas Points earned will be calculated based on the exchange rate of the day when final payment was made. Full terms and conditions can be found at www.abercrombiekent.com.au/qantas-frequent-flyer

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Bengal tiger, India
ABERCROMBIE & KENT PHILANTHROPY

BE A PART OF TRAVEL THAT CHANGES LIVES

Make a deeper local connection on your next journey with a visit to an Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy project.

Transforming Travel
The travel industry is in the midst of a transformation toward greater equity and sustainability. Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy (AKP) is dedicated to positively impacting lives and livelihoods in the communities where our guests travel. We are equally committed to ensuring guests learn about our philanthropic investments as an integral part of their travel experience.

Sharing a Journey That Matters
While an A&K journey reveals all kinds of inspiring experiences, our guests often find their visit to an AKP project the most stirring. You’ll find these unique opportunities on many of our journeys, affording a wealth of interactions and insights you won’t find anywhere else. Whether celebrating a newly opened school or the beauty of an ecosystem brought back from the brink, these visits forge memories that last a lifetime.

Building on a Solid Foundation
Established in 1982 under the guidance of A&K Vice Chairman Jorie Butler Kent, Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy is dedicated to giving back to the vibrant communities we’re so privileged to share with our guests. Our local offices seek out and support grassroots projects in these communities, and we’re now deeply involved in more than 40 education, conservation, healthcare and community enterprise projects in 21 countries.

Sustaining an Unmatched Local Presence
With full-time, locally based coordinators serving our partner communities in Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, India, Peru, Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia, AKP is fostering philanthropic commitments unprecedented in the travel industry. Focused on making the most of our efforts in the field, these community development professionals are also uniquely qualified to share these projects with you, our guests.

If you’d like to meet one of our Philanthropy Coordinators and experience an AKP project firsthand, please contact A&K or your travel agent to arrange a site visit on your next journey. Abercrombie & Kent makes a donation to AKP on behalf of every guest travelling.

You can also learn more by visiting akphilanthropy.org

Look for this symbol for opportunities to visit an A&K Philanthropy project on your journey.

AKP PROJECTS ON A&K INDIAN SUBCONTINENT & ORIENT JOURNEYS

- India: Deepalaya School Delhi, India | The Golden Triangle & Beyond, Splendours of Rajasthan, Icons & Hidden Treasures of Rajasthan
- Digantar School Jaipur, India | The Golden Triangle & Beyond, Splendours of Rajasthan, Icons & Hidden Treasures of Rajasthan
- Hansraj Children’s Home Udaipur, India | Splendours of Rajasthan, Icons & Hidden Treasures of Rajasthan
- Project Leopard, Sri Lanka | Sri Lanka By Air
- Clean Water Project, Cambodia | Journey on the Mekong, Images of Indochina & Angkor Wat, Wonders of Cambodia
- Siem Reap Schools Programme, Cambodia | Journey on the Mekong, Wonders of Cambodia
- Sin Kyun Village Project, Myanmar | Myanmar In Style
- Muang Khay Secondary School, Laos | Thailand & Laos: Northern Kingdoms
A&K’s India & The Orient

Where will your journey take you?

BHUTAN Though tiny, this Buddhist kingdom in the Eastern Himalaya has cultivated an unspoiled culture and traditional lifestyle thanks to its isolation from the rest of the world.

UZBEKISTAN Home to the legendary cities of Samarkand and Bukhara, expect extraordinary architecture, grand mosques, UNESCO World Heritage sites and breathtaking landscapes.

NEPAL Dramatic Himalayan landscapes are just the beginning in this tiny nation of friendly, smiling people, extraordinary wildlife and World Heritage sites. There are also adventure activities aplenty.

TURKMENISTAN A commanding player on the ancient Silk Road, the vestiges of once powerful empires are seen today in its monuments, caravanserais and archaeological relics.

INDIA Dazzling colours, spice-laden markets, beach temples and desert forts plus legendary culinary traditions, world famous monuments and palm-lined backwater canals.

MONGOLIA One of travel’s last frontiers, Mongolia is vast, remote, strikingly beautiful and authentic. A land of open plains, desert landscapes, majestic mountains and nomads living on the steppe.

SRI LANKA Though compact, Sri Lanka packs a punch with World Heritage sites, hill stations, golden beaches and national parks plus beautiful boutique hotels.

CHINA Nowhere on earth does ancient history meet modernity so much as in China, the world’s most populous nation with attractions to match.

MALDIVES This country in the Indian Ocean comprises hundreds of islands and is famous for its white sand beaches, crystal clear seas, colourful marine life and exquisite hideaways.

TIBET A land of breathtaking mountain scenery, sweeping landscapes and a rich Buddhist culture with monasteries, prayer flags, yaks and nomads.

MYANMAR Authentic and unspoiled, Myanmar is one of the great destinations in Southeast Asia. See Buddhist temples, the majestic Inle, dreamy landscapes and small villages.

LAOS Still relatively unexplored, Laos retains a sleepy charm with World Heritage sites, a rich Buddhist culture and a smattering of luxury hotels.

THAILAND One of Southeast Asia’s friendliest destinations, Thailand is blessed with breathtaking scenery, beaches, mountains, a vibrant culture, hill tribes, great shopping and a tantalising cuisine.
CHINA
MONGOLIA
MYANMAR
THAILAND
LAOS
CAMBODIA
VIETNAM
JAPAN
India & Beyond

Intriguing and hospitable, Japan is home to ancient temples and shrines as well as futuristic cities, pristine landscapes, a vibrant contemporary culture and one of the world’s favourite cuisines.

CAMBODIA

With a complex history spanning six centuries, Cambodia’s greatest legacy is the temple complex of Angkor. A thriving handicraft industry exists plus an exciting culinary scene.

VIETNAM

With a tropical climate, ancient culture, a mouth-watering cuisine, fascinating village life plus great shopping and beaches, Vietnam is a world in one country.

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Rajasthani herdsmen
INDIA & BEYOND

A visit to India is a sensory adventure, its colours are dazzling and its sights extraordinary. There are spice-laden markets and places of pilgrimage, beach temples and desert forts. Its culinary traditions are legendary and its monuments include a number of the world’s most famous. From the high mountains of the Himalaya to the palm-lined backwaters of Kerala, the opulent palaces of Rajasthan to its incredible wildlife, A&K delivers the best of India.

Elsewhere in the region, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives also offer fascinating attractions, intriguing cultural diversity and breathtaking natural wonders. These places work well in combination with an Indian journey or as an individually focused holiday.

For over 30 years, A&K has been delivering outstanding journeys to India and the Subcontinent. The company has four offices in India, another in Sri Lanka, the most experienced local partners in Bhutan and Nepal, as well as highly-educated guides and unique Insider Access opportunities throughout the region.

WHEN TO GO

Characterised by a hot, tropical climate, the ideal time to travel to India and Sri Lanka is during the Australian summer when conditions are more temperate and humidity lower. Expect the monsoon May to September with rain generally in the morning or late afternoon. Travelling at this time shows the country in a lush new light. In the Himalayan regions to the north, travel is recommended late spring or autumn. Although year-round destinations, popular times to visit Nepal and Bhutan are autumn, between October and December when skies are clear and views spectacular, and spring, March until May, when the flowers are at their most vivid. Nepal and Bhutan’s monsoon occurs June to September.

A&K ADVANTAGES & INCLUSIONS

Among the many inclusions that make an A&K Private Journey in this part of the world unique:

• Your own dedicated A&K Travel Specialist who will work with you before you travel to thoroughly understand your interests and requirements, and either recommend a ready-to-book A&K itinerary from this brochure, every one of which has been designed with passion, insight and attention to detail incorporating the very best, not just the best-known, options and experiences in the destination, or create a bespoke itinerary especially for you

• Expert local guides who will share their personal insights into the destination, enable unique local encounters and ensure you take away lifelong memories

• A perfectly-balanced journey that flows seamlessly from start to finish, with opportunities for self-discovery along the way and the ability to enjoy flexibility during your stay and set your own pace

• Hand-picked accommodation from the very best high-end luxury hotels to intimate boutique inns and independently-owned lodgings

• Round-the-clock support in destination through A&K’s extensive network of travel experts, local offices and associates

Every A&K private journey also includes:

• A personal Meet & Greet on arrival at each destination

• Private transfers and transport in your own luxury vehicle with a driver, bottled water and hand towels

• All breakfasts and many other meals (as specified in the itinerary)

• Entrance fees for all sightseeing and included activities.
Despite covering a vast area, the Indian subcontinent’s interconnectivity means it is simple to combine multiple countries and regions in one journey. Here is some inspiration on how it can be done. To handcraft your own luxury journey, talk to your travel agent or contact Abercrombie & Kent.

NORTHERN INDIA & NEPAL
Near neighbours, Nepal and India work in perfect harmony as a combination three week journey. The Golden Triangle & Beyond (page 24) and Images of Nepal (page 58) blend all that is best in northern India with Nepal’s major attractions. From Delhi and the Taj Mahal to Rajasthan’s iconic forts and palaces and spiritual Varanasi to the Kathmandu Valley, a wildlife experience in Chitwan National Park and leisure time at a resort in the Annapurna foothills, find inspiration in the colours, the cuisine and the culture.

INDIA & SRI LANKA
Seemingly so similar, India and Sri Lanka have much that makes them refreshingly different from each other. Contrast the elaborate forts and palaces of Rajasthan with the understated Dutch charms of Galle and Colombo. The Hindu traditions of India versus Buddhist Sri Lanka. The culinary differences and the more relaxed pace in Sri Lanka which is distinctly different from much of India. Combine Icons & Hidden Treasures of Rajasthan (page 32) with Sri Lanka by Air (page 48) for a delightful overview of these two beloved destinations.

EAST INDIA & BHUTAN
From fragrant tea plantations and snow-capped Himalayan peaks to bustling bazaars and India’s grandest colonial architecture, enhance the hidden wonders of East India with the spirituality and scenic beauty of the legendary mountain kingdom of Bhutan. Combine Reflections of East India (page 38) and Bhutan: Land of the Thunder Dragon (page 56) for an adventure through colonial Kolkata, vibrant tea plantations, Buddhist monasteries and high mountain passes.
INDIA

Diverse, intoxicating and colourful, India offers a lifetime of experiences in one captivating country. Whether you stay in a Maharaja’s palace, explore the snow-capped mountains of the high Himalaya, discover the wind-swept deserts of Rajasthan, witness the hustle and bustle of Delhi’s street markets, go on a photo safari in search of tiger, take a boat ride down the Ganges or simply cruise the southern backwaters — our luxury India holidays will leave you with memories you’ll cherish for the rest of your life. Add to this some of the most iconic historical and cultural sites in the world, including the Taj Mahal, and it’s easy to see why our guests keep returning time and time again.

UNMISSABLE INDIA

RAJASTHAN
The princely state of Rajasthan in India’s north seduces with its opulent forts, imposing monuments and its rare wildlife. Desert landscapes and dreamy lakes provide a backdrop for dazzling saris, richly coloured turbans, engaging festivals and glittering jewels.

NORTH INDIA
The north of the subcontinent is framed by lofty peaks, glacial rivers and vast valleys where remote monasteries and mountain communities huddle. Explore tea plantations, marvel at rare wildlife and soak up the flavours of the Raj.

SOUTH INDIA
A feast for the senses and deeply spiritual, life in the south moves at an unhurried pace. Glorious temple towns emerge from the lush landscape, buffaloes graze quietly in green fields, palm trees line golden beaches and rice barges ply dreamy backwaters where life has changed little in centuries.

EAST INDIA
From fragrant tea plantations and snow-capped Himalayan peaks to bustling bazaars and grand colonial architecture, the less-explored East India is a surprise waiting to be discovered. From gritty Kolkata, the country’s intellectual capital, to Sikkim’s hill stations and high mountain peaks, a world of tea and spices and colonial retreats beckons.
INDIA
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Amber Fort, Jaipur
Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra
Ranthambore National Park
Varanasi ghats
Sadhu, Varanasi
THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE & BEYOND

12 DAYS - PRIVATE JOURNEY
DELHI - AGRA - RANTHAMBORE N.P. - JAIPUR - VARANASI

PRICE: FROM $7,565 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $12,995.

Experience India’s spellbinding world of colour, rituals and wildlife on this journey. Witness the heritage and grandeur of the Mughal Empire in Delhi. Be humbled by the Taj Mahal. Step inside temples and palaces for a glimpse of contrasting cultures. Seek out the majestic tiger in Ranthambore National Park. And discover the perfect harmony of chaos and serenity in the sacred city of Varanasi.

Day 1: Arrive Delhi. Namaste and welcome to India’s northern gateway. Transfer to your elegant hotel. The Imperial

Day 2: Delhi. Take in the sights of Old and New Delhi today with your expert guide. Navigate the narrow alleyways of Chandni Chowk on a cycle rickshaw. Marvel at ancient havelis and one of the most prominent Sikh temples in India. Afternoon at leisure. BL | The Imperial

Day 3: Delhi. Start at the 13th century Qutub Minar, the tallest free-standing tower in the world. Continue to Humayun’s Tomb and drive down New Delhi’s tree-lined boulevards to India Gate and the President’s Residence. Design your own afternoon (additional charge). Take a spiritual journey through Delhi’s temples. Or immerse yourself in an art focused tour of museums and galleries. BD | The Imperial

Day 4: Delhi – Agra. Travel by road to Agra, home to the Taj Mahal. Explore the city’s hidden laneways, markets, mosques and temples. Admire the glistening marble “Baby Taj” and cross the Yamuna River for a breathtaking sunset view of the Taj Mahal. B | The Oberoi Amarvilas

Day 5: Agra. Rise early and return to the Taj Mahal at dawn. Later, visit the former imperial city of the Mughal rulers, the Agra Fort. This evening, return to the Taj as the sun is setting. B | The Oberoi Amarvilas

Day 6: Agra – Ranthambore National Park. Venture to Ranthambore National Park, stopping en route at the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri. After lunch in Bharatpur, continue by air-conditioned train to Sawai Madhopur and your luxury tented accommodation. BLD | The Oberoi Vanyavilas

Day 7: Ranthambore National Park. Head out on early morning and afternoon private game drives, timed to give you the optimal opportunity of viewing tiger and other wildlife species. BD | The Oberoi Vanyavilas

Day 8: Ranthambore National Park – Jaipur. Early visit to the Ranthambore Fort (additional charge). Head overland to India’s Pink City, Jaipur, and get your bearings on an afternoon walking tour. Step inside lively temples, take part in a Hindu prayer ceremony and sip tea with locals. Then, chart the movements of the heavens at the Jantar Mantar Observatory and make a quick photo stop at Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds). B | Rambagh Palace

Day 9: Jaipur. Soar above Jaipur on an early morning hot-air balloon flight (additional charge). Tour the Amber Fort with its distinctive Mughal architecture. Visit the Anokhi Museum for Hand Printing and spend the afternoon your way (additional charge). Join a home cooking demonstration. Gain private behind-the-scenes access to the City Palace of Jaipur. Step inside a studio for a hands-on pottery lesson. Enjoy High Tea on the terrace with henna painting and turban tying. B | Rambagh Palace

Day 10: Jaipur – Varanasi. Fly to Varanasi, one of the world’s oldest cities, the heart of spiritual India. This evening, head to the city’s ghats (stone steps) and witness locals performing the Hindu Aarti ritual. B | Brijrama Palace

Day 11: Varanasi. Rise early for a dawn Ganges boat trip. See pilgrims bathing and at morning prayer. Then, wander through the city. Step inside a traditional gymnasium where a traditional form of wrestling is practiced. Journey to Sarnath where Buddha is said to have preached his first sermon. Visit the Archaeological Museum and see Banarasi saris being produced at a weavers’ colony. B | Brijrama Palace

Day 12: Depart Varanasi. Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. B

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS
• Experience the magnificent Taj Mahal at sunrise and sunset
• Embark on private jeep safaris in search of the Bengal tiger
• Witness the sacred Aarti ceremony on the banks of the River Ganges
• See one of the most perfect architectural achievements in India, Fatehpur Sikri
• Weave through the colourful bazaars of Old Delhi’s Chandni Chowk

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY

GOLDEN JAISALMER - PRIVATE EXTENSION
4 DAYS FROM $2,075 PER PERSON TWIN

In the westernmost reaches of Rajasthan in the heart of the Thar Desert lies the ‘Golden City’ of Jaisalmer. Remote and romantic, it is dominated by its ‘living’ fort, chiselled from golden sandstone and home to a quarter of the city’s population. Quint by-lanes inside the fort lead you to exotic bazaars, exquisite Jain temples and beautifully preserved havelis (old merchant homes). Its frontier town ambiance and captivating history make Jaisalmer a desert experience like no other. Please visit our website for more information.

AKP supported projects:
Deepalaya School Delhi & Digantar School Jaipur
INDIA
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Collecting water from a stepwell, Jaipur
Indian spices, Old Delhi
Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur
Folk musicians, Jaipur
Taj Mahal close up, Agra
Step back into a bygone era of emperors and princes in royal Rajasthan. Discover Delhi’s colonial grandeur. Be awestruck by the symmetry and marbled elegance of the iconic Taj Mahal. Drink in the dusky magnificence of Jaipur’s City Palace and hillside Amber Fort. Savour a lakeside sunset in Udaipur, India’s most romantic city, and live like a Maharaja in India’s most regal hotels.

Day 1: Arrive Delhi. Namaste and welcome to India’s northern gateway with its ruin-studded gardens, a growing contemporary art scene and world-class cuisine. Transfer to your hotel. The Oberoi New Delhi

Day 2: Delhi. Take in the sights of Old and New Delhi today with your expert guide. Navigate the narrow alleyways and market stalls of Chandni Chowk on a cycle rickshaw. Gaze at the ramparts of the Red Fort, the residence of the Mughal emperors, and after lunch drive down the wide boulevards of New Delhi and admire the colonial architecture. Finish at Humayun’s Tomb, built in 1570 for a Mughal emperor. BL | The Oberoi New Delhi

Day 3: Delhi – Agra. Travel overland to Agra, home to the Taj Mahal, the world’s pre-eminent expression of passionate but restrained mourning. Head to the Agra Fort, the former imperial city of the Mughal rulers. Admire sunset over the magnificent Taj Mahal and appreciate uninterrupted Taj views from your hotel room. B | The Oberoi Amarvilas

Day 4: Agra – Jaipur. Rise early for dawn at the Taj Mahal. After breakfast, travel overland to Jaipur, stopping en route at the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri, one of the region’s most scenic landmarks. Make a quick photo stop at the majestic Chand Baori stepwell, one of the largest in the world, before arriving at your regal palace hotel. BL | Rambagh Palace

Day 5: Jaipur. Soar above Jaipur on an early-morning hot-air balloon flight (additional charge). Tour begins at the Amber Fort, with its distinctive Mughal architecture. Then, immerse yourself in block prints at the Anokhi Museum of Hand Printing, housed in a beautifully restored haveli. In the afternoon, meander through the old city. Step inside lively temples to witness traditional customs. Take part in a Hindu prayer ceremony, if you wish, and sip tea with the locals. Visit the ancient Vishnu temple then stop to photograph Jaipur’s most famous building, Hawa Mahal (“Palace of the Winds”). B | Rambagh Palace

Day 6: Jaipur. Spend the day your way (additional charge). Join a noble Rajput home cooking demonstration. Gain private behind-the-scenes access to the City Palace of Jaipur. Step inside Clay Botik studio for a hands-on pottery lesson. Enjoy High Tea on the terrace with henna painting and turban tying. Or ride through the narrow streets of the old city by rickshaw and stop at the Jantar Mantar Observatory filled with enormous astronomical instruments dating back to the 16th century. B | Rambagh Palace

Day 7: Jaipur – Udaipur. Fly to Udaipur, India’s most romantic city, whose deep blue lakes sit against the undulating Aravalli Hills. Learn the extraordinary and ancient art of water painting in a hands-on workshop. As sunset calls, take a private boat ride on the shimmering waters of Lake Pichola. BL | Taj Lake Palace

Day 8: Udaipur. Discover Udaipur’s distinctive Rajput-era palaces and architecture. Your first stop is the flamboyant City Palace then the Sahelion-ki-Bari garden and three-storey Jagdish Temple. Afternoon at leisure. This evening, let a local historian regale you with stories over a glass of wine in the Taj Lake Palace. B | Taj Lake Palace

Day 9: Depart Udaipur. Transfer to the airport for your onward journey. B

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS
• See the resplendent Taj Mahal at sunset and sunrise
• Ride a cycle rickshaw through the colourful bazaars of Old Delhi
• Savour the sunset on a lake cruise in Udaipur, the ‘Venice of the East’
• Discover the lesser-known wonders of Jaipur
• Explore Udaipur’s Taj Lake Palace after dark with a local historian

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY

SACRED VARANASI – PRIVATE EXTENSION
4 DAYS FROM $1,065 PER PERSON TWIN
Varanasi is the heart of spiritual India – where thousands of devotees flock to bathe in the holy Ganges. The steps down to the river used by the pilgrims are known as ghats, and many have a deep spiritual significance. Locals say Dashashwamedh, the largest ghat, was created by the Hindu deity Brahma to welcome Shiva. Nearby Sarnath is also famous – Buddha is said to have preached his first sermon here after achieving enlightenment. Please visit our website for more information.

AKP supported projects:
Deepalaya School Delhi,
Digantar School Jaipur &
Hansraj School Udaipur
INDIA
LUXURY SMALL
GROUP JOURNEY

Sunrise Ganges River cruise, Varanasi
Chital deer, Panna National Park
The Taj Mahal Palace and Gateway of India, Mumbai
Humayun’s Tomb, Delhi

Taj Mahal, Agra

Sunrise Ganges River cruise, Varanasi
Chital deer, Panna National Park
The Taj Mahal Palace and Gateway of India, Mumbai
Humayun’s Tomb, Delhi
TAJ MAHAL & THE TREASURES OF INDIA

14 DAYS - LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

MUMBAI - UDAIPUR - JAIPUR - AGRA - PANNA N.P. - KHAJURAHO - VARANASI - DELHI

MULTIPLE MONTHLY DEPARTURE DATES AVAILABLE JAN-MAR & OCT-DEC 2019.

Please see website or contact A&K for more information.

PRICE: FROM $14,760 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FROM $5,860.

Price includes internal economy class airfare: From $1,435 per person.
Limited to 18 guests.

Explore India’s greatest treasures, as you visit the timeless Taj Mahal, seek out the graceful Bengal tiger and witness a holy rite beside the Ganges – all while staying in royal palaces-turned-luxury hotels.

Day 1: Arrive Mumbai. Arrive into Mumbai and transfer to your iconic hotel by the Gateway of India. The Taj Mahal Palace

Day 2: Mumbai. Explore the city’s classic sites, including the Gateway of India, the Prince of Wales Museum and Mani Bhawan, a museum dedicated to the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi. Next, see the Dhobi Ghat, the largest open-air laundry in the world, before a welcome dinner. BD | The Taj Mahal Palace

Days 3–4: Udaipur. Fly north to the lake city of Udaipur and visit the stunning City Palace with its unforgettable views. Continue to the Crystal Gallery before arriving at your iconic hotel, set in the middle of the lake. The next morning, journey out of town to Delwara and visit two important temple complexes – Eklingji and Nagda. On return to Udaipur, stroll through Sahelion Ki Bari garden before a private cruise on the lake. Day 3: BD / Day 4: BL | Taj Lake Palace

Day 5: Udaipur – Jaipur. Fly to Jaipur, the Rajasthani capital, and check in to your palatial hotel. Later, explore the City Palace and Jantar Mantar, an open-air array of astronomical instruments. BD | Rambagh Palace

Day 6: Jaipur. View the Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) before heading out of town to explore the magnificent hilltop Mughal-style Amber Fort. BL | Rambagh Palace

Day 7: Jaipur – Agra. Drive to Agra and catch your first glimpse of the breathtaking Taj Mahal from your room. Visit in the late afternoon, as the setting sun bathes it in a soft glow. BL | The Oberoi Amarvilas

Day 8: Agra. Return to the Taj at dawn before visiting the impressive Agra Fort. BD | The Oberoi Amarvilas

Day 9: Agra – Panna National Park. Depart by express train to Jhansi. After lunch, continue to the remote and beautiful Panna National Park, a haven for India’s wildlife. BLD | Pashan Garh, A Taj Safari Lodge

Day 10: Panna National Park. Rise early for a game drive, keeping an eye out for the elusive Bengal tiger and other wildlife. Return to the lodge for an Indian cooking demonstration. Afternoon game drive before dinner. BLD | Pashan Garh, A Taj Safari Lodge

Day 11: Panna National Park – Varanasi. Drive to Khajuraho to see the extraordinary Hindu and Jain temples. Then, fly to Varanasi, the heart of spiritual India. At dusk, beside the Ganges River, witness an Aarti ceremony. BLD | The Gateway Hotel Ganges

Day 12: Varanasi – Delhi. Rise early for a private sunrise cruise on the Ganges River to observe activity along the ghats (stone steps leading down to the river). Later, fly to Delhi for a farewell dinner. BD | The Oberoi, New Delhi

Day 13: Delhi. Visit the great Jama Masjid, the most important mosque in India. Then, take an exciting rickshaw ride through vibrant Chandni Chowk bazaar in Old Delhi. After lunch, drive through the majestic boulevards of New Delhi and visit Humayun’s Tomb. BL | The Oberoi, New Delhi

Day 14: Depart Delhi. Transfer to the airport for your departure flight. B

Note: On select October/November departures, this journey will include an additional two days at the colourful Pushkar Camel Fair. See our website for details.

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

• Experience the glorious Taj Mahal at sunrise and sunset
• Stay in former palaces, including iconic royal residences such as the lavish Taj Lake Palace and the grand Rambagh Palace
• Set out on a private safari in Panna National Park, home to the elusive Bengal tiger
• Enjoy a Scenic Sundowner after a private sunset boat cruise in Udaipur
• Observe priests performing an Aarti ceremony on the banks of the Holy Ganges

WINGS OVER INDIA

14 DAYS FROM $58,815 PER PERSON TWIN

Wings Over the World itineraries feature private charter flights between destinations, allowing you to visit remote places with less time spent getting there. On this journey, explore India’s treasures, from the splendid Taj Mahal to the temple caves on Elephanta Island and stay in royal palaces-turned-luxury hotels. Seek out the graceful Bengal tiger, witness holy rites beside the Ganges and drink in the diversity of India’s tropical landscapes. Please visit our website for more information.

ALTERNATE JOURNEY

• Observe priests performing an Aarti ceremony on the banks of the Holy Ganges
INDIA
MARCO POLO
GROUP JOURNEY

Indian roller, Kanha National Park

Leopard, Kanha National Park

Asiatic lion, Gir Forest National Park

Game drive, Bandhavgarh National Park

Bengal tiger, Bandhavgarh National Park
INDIA WILDLIFE SAFARI: LIONS, TIGERS & LEOPARDS
14 DAYS - MARCO POLO GROUP JOURNEY
MUMBAI - GIR FOREST N.P. - KANHA N.P. - BANDHAVGARH N.P. - DELHI
PRICE: FROM $16,340 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FROM $9,550.
Price includes internal economy class airfare: From $1,640 per person. Limited to 18 guests.

Experience India on a journey that takes you from cities rich in history and culture to jungles teeming with exotic wildlife. Explore some of the world’s most treasured ecosystems as you track elusive leopard, Asiatic lion and the Royal Bengal tiger on game drives through India’s biodiverse jungles and dry forests.

Day 1: Arrive Mumbai. Arrive into India’s commercial and entertainment capital and transfer to your hotel. Taj Santacruz, Mumbai

Day 2: Mumbai. Spend the morning at leisure. After lunch, set out to explore Mumbai, seeing the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, a UNESCO World Heritage Site; Mani Bhawan; Gandhi’s base during his visits to the city from 1917 to 1934 and now a memorial to his life; the Prince of Wales Museum (Chhatrapati Shivaji Museum); and the Dhobi Ghat, Mumbai’s unique outdoor laundry. Then, gather with fellow guests for welcome cocktails, followed by dinner. BLD | Taj Santacruz, Mumbai

Day 3: Mumbai – Gir Forest National Park. Early this morning, fly to Rajkot in the western state of Gujarat. Upon arrival, travel to Gondal to see Naulakha Palace and the Maharajah’s amazing private automobile collection. Then, drive several hours to Gir and check in to your hotel at the edge of Gir Forest. BLD | The Gateway Hotel Gir Forest

Day 4: Gir Forest National Park. Morning and afternoon game viewing in Gir Forest National Park. Take an adventurous Jeep safari in search of leopard, jungle cats, hyena and chinkara (Indian gazelle). Gir is the last remaining habitat of the endangered Asiatic lion, making it one of Asia’s most important protected areas. BLD | The Gateway Hotel Gir Forest

Day 5: Gir Forest National Park. Another early morning game drive when wildlife viewing is often at its best. Return to the hotel for breakfast, followed by a drive to the airport in Rajkot for a flight to Mumbai. BLD | Taj Santacruz, Mumbai

Day 6: Kanha National Park. After breakfast, board your short flight to Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. After lunch, a long drive to Kanha National Park where your hotel overlooks lush forests and grassy meadows. BLD | Banjaar Tola, Kanha National Park

Days 7–8: Kanha National Park. Twice daily game viewing is included during your stay in Kanha, one of India’s most famous national parks. Among the sal and bamboo forests and extensive grasslands, search for the Bengal tiger and spot an abundance of deer, sloth bear, leopard and more. BLD | Banjaar Tola, Kanha National Park

Day 9: Kanha – Bandhavgarh National Park. After breakfast, drive several hours to Bandhavgarh National Park, which includes a renowned tiger reserve and a high density of these elusive creatures. One of India’s most beautiful national parks, it is nestled among the tropical forests, woodlands, rocky hills and flat grasslands of the Vindhya and Satpura Ranges. BLD | Mahua Kothi, Bandhavgarh National Park

Days 10–11: Bandhavgarh National Park. Enjoy early morning and afternoon game drives, looking out for the Bengal tiger, as well as leopard and wild boar. BLD | Mahua Kothi, Bandhavgarh National Park

Day 12: Delhi. After breakfast, travel several hours to Jabalpur airport for a flight to Delhi. This evening, meet with fellow travellers over farewell cocktails, followed by dinner at the hotel. BLD | Taj Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi

Day 13: Delhi. After breakfast, explore the city of New Delhi. India’s vibrant, bustling capital has many highlights, including relics of bygone empires. Afternoon at leisure. B | Taj Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi

Day 14: Depart Delhi. Transfer to the airport for departure flight. B

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS
• Visit Gir Forest National Park, the last remaining place on earth to see the Asiatic lion
• Explore Kanha and Bandhavgarh National Parks, home to rare exotic birds and the world’s largest concentration of the Bengal tiger
• Soak up the sights of cosmopolitan Mumbai and diverse Delhi
• Bed down in authentic accommodations that put you in the heart of India’s wilderness

ALTERNATE JOURNEY

INDIA & THE RICHES OF RAJASTHAN - A LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY
12 DAYS FROM $12,540 PER PERSON TWIN

Explore vibrant Rajasthan, the cultural heartland of northwest India, rich in Hindu, Jain and Muslim heritage, where you visit stunning fortresses, palaces and temples, meet talented local artisans, stay in world-renowned luxury properties and experience colourful tribal culture. This journey also includes the opportunity to experience the beautiful Taj Mahal at both sunset and sunrise, watching its marble face change colour with the shifting light. Please visit our website for more information.
The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur

Chhatra Sagar

Rabari herders and their sheep, Sujan Jawai

The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur

Jodhpur

Chhatra Sagar

Thar Desert
ICONS & HIDDEN TREASURES OF NORTHERN INDIA

18 DAYS - PRIVATE JOURNEY

DELHI - AGRA - JAIPUR - NIMAJ - JODHPUR - JAWAI BANDH - UDAIPUR - AHMEDABAD

PRICE: FROM $13,495 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $24,995.

Journey from elaborate royal palaces to the most desolate landscapes. Discover Delhi’s colonial grandeur and mouthwatering cuisine. Take in Jaipur’s imposing City Palace and hillside Amber Fort. And let the Taj Mahal mesmerise at sunrise and sunset. Then, head into a limitless wilderness where the leopard roams wild and free. Live like a Maharaja in regal palaces, historic havelis and luxury tented camps and celebrate the Land of Kings.

Days 1-2: Arrive Delhi. Namaste and welcome to India’s northern gateway. During your stay, take in the sights of Old and New Delhi. Explore the colourful bazaars of Old Delhi by rickshaw and gaze at the imposing Red Fort before discovering the wide avenues and colonial architecture of New Delhi. BL | The Oberoi New Delhi

Day 3: Delhi - Agra. Bid farewell to Delhi after visiting Humayun’s Tomb and journey overland to Agra. Standing before the mesmerising Taj Mahal will take your breath away. B | The Oberoi Amarvilas

Day 4: Agra. View the Taj Mahal at sunrise and later venture to the impressive Agra Fort. Explore Agra’s laneways, bustling spice market, sacred mosques and temples and visit “the Baby Taj” before a special sunset viewing of the Taj. B | The Oberoi Amarvilas

Day 5: Agra - Jaipur. Journey overland to Jaipur pausing en route at the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After lunch, a quick photo stop at the majestic Chand Baori, one of the largest stepwells in the world. BL | Suján Rajmahal Palace

Days 6-7: Jaipur. Two days in the Pink City. Gain fascinating insight into the life of the Moghuls at Amber Fort then marvel at the heavens in the Jantar Mantar Observatory before a photo at the Palace of the Winds. Step inside lively temples in the old city. Take part in a Hindu prayer ceremony and sip tea with locals. Spend a day at leisure or choose an optional cultural activity (additional charge). B | Suján Rajmahal Palace

Day 8-9: Jaipur – Rural Rajasthan (Nimaj). Swap the city hustle for the serenity of Chhatra Sagar tented camp perched on the edge of a reservoir teeming with birdlife. Explore your way with a jeep tour of the local farm and village, a boat trip on the lake or a bird watching expedition. BLD | Chhatra Sagar

Day 10: Rural Rajasthan (Nimaj) – Jodhpur. Next stop Jodhpur to explore the treasures of the Blue City. Venture to Mehrangarh Fort perched above the city and the gleaming white Jaswant Thada. Wind through the narrow alleys of the old city and bustling market. B | Raas Jodhpur

Day 11: Jodhpur. Discover a fascinating culture in the nearby Bishnoi villages. Stop at a small workshop to watch the hundred-year-old tradition of dhurrie rug making. B | Raas Jodhpur

Day 12: Jodhpur – Jawai Bandh. Venture into the wild Aravalli Hills to Jawai Bandh, a stylish contemporary tented camp that is your base to discover the local leopard population. BLD | Suján Jawai Camp

Day 13: Jawai Bandh. Head out on early morning and late afternoon drives in a customised 4WD accompanied by your tracker-guide in search of the elusive leopard. BLD | Suján Jawai Camp

Day 14: Jawai Bandh – Udaipur. Drive south to India’s most romantic city, stopping en route at the Ranakpur Temples. Take a private boat ride on the shimmering waters of Lake Pichola at sunset. BL | The Oberoi Udaivilas

Day 15: Udaipur. Discover Udaipur’s distinctive architecture, arts and crafts. First stop is the flamboyant City Palace and the Jagdish Temple. Continue to Sahelion-ki-Bari garden and a local gallery. B | The Oberoi Udaivilas

Day 16: Udaipur – Ahmedabad. Travel to Ahmedabad, stopping en route at the beautiful 13th century Rajputana fort in the village of Dungarpur. BL | The House of MG

Day 17: Ahmedabad. Wander amongst mosques, tombs and temples from the sultanate period and discover rare textiles in the Calico Museum. Then, make a pilgrimage to the Gandhi Ashram. BD | The House of MG

Day 18: Depart Ahmedabad. Transfer to the airport for onward journey. B

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

• Wander through the colourful bazaars, temples and palaces of Old and New Delhi
• See the resplendent Taj Mahal at sunset and sunrise
• Soak up the sunset on a lake cruise in the ‘Venice of the East’
• Discover the lesser-known wonders of Jaipur, the ‘Pink City’
• Search for leopard during your private jeep safaris

GOA: BEYOND THE BEACH - PRIVATE EXTENSION

4 DAYS FROM $1,175 PER PERSON TWIN

Discover India’s many surprising layers in glorious Goa. Venture beyond the shimmering golden beaches to unveil an intriguing Indo-Portuguese heritage. Wander amongst crumbling colonial mansions and white-washed churches. Discover boho chic bars reminiscent of Goa’s hippy heyday and feast on richly-spiced cuisine. Plunge into a seaside idyll and venture deep into the lush landscape of hilly farmlands, spice plantations and Buddhist caves. Bed down in a coveted boutique retreat and be dazzled by Goa’s allure. Please visit our website for more information.

AKP supported projects: Deepalaya School Delhi, Digantar School Jaipur & Hansraj School Udaipur

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY

• Search for leopard during your private jeep safaris
• Discover the lesser-known wonders of Jaipur, the ‘Pink City’
• Soak up the sunset on a lake cruise in the ‘Venice of the East’
• See the resplendent Taj Mahal at sunset and sunrise
• Wander through the colourful bazaars, temples and palaces of Old and New Delhi

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INDIA
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Khardung La pass
Call to prayer, Thiksey Monastery

Diskit Monastery

Khardung La pass

Call to prayer, Thiksey Monastery

Chamba Camp, Thiksey

Ladakhi locals
LADAKH: A BREATHTAKING HIMALAYAN JOURNEY

9 DAYS – PRIVATE JOURNEY
LEH – NUBRA VALLEY – THIKSEY – LEH

PRICE: FROM $8,275 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $14,525.

Venture into India’s far-flung northern reaches to Ladakh and experience an extraordinary life amidst the cloud-conquering peaks of the Himalayas. Witness the magnificent palaces, colourful markets and rich cultures of Leh. Hike into colossal mountains to find ancient hidden monasteries and fluttering prayer flags. At the end of each day, bed down in the most beautiful spots, surrounded by every luxury imaginable.

Day 1: Arrive Leh. Welcome to Leh, the high-altitude capital of remote Ladakh, one of India’s least populated regions. Transfer to charming Saboo, a rural village outside the city. Spend time acclimatising before joining a Buddhist scholar for some fascinating insights. 
LD | Saboo Resorts

Day 2: Leh. Explore the village on foot and admire the breathtaking landscapes of the Indus Valley from the old hilltop castle. Later, visit the old city of Leh. Take in the nine-storey Leh Palace which is a mini version of Lhasa’s famous Potala Palace. Then step inside the workshops and galleries of LAMO (Ladakh Arts & Media Organisation) Munshi House. Enjoy a fascinating talk by a Ladakhi scholar and explore the old town’s bazaars. This evening, you’re invited into a local home for a culinary masterclass. Learn the secrets behind the Tibetan delicacy, Gyakho, the soup with one-hundred ingredients. 
BLD | Saboo Resorts

Day 3: Leh. Venture to the 12th century Alchi Monastery on the banks of the mighty Indus River. See some of the world’s last remaining Mahayana Buddhist frescoes. Then head to beautiful Lamayuru Monastery, one of the region’s oldest, perched atop a cliff. 
BLD | Saboo Resorts

Day 4: Leh – Nubra Valley. Journey north into the enchanting Nubra Valley, travelling over the beautiful Wari La pass (5,200 metres) through the pretty Digar Valley. Pause for photos and a picnic lunch before finding your sanctuary at luxurious Chamba Camp, near the tranquil village of Diskit, where views of the Nubra Valley and the Diskit Monastery in the distance are impressive. 
BLD | Chamba Camp at Diskit

Day 5: Nubra Valley. Journey by road to the village of Panimik to begin your hike to Ensa Monastery, surrounded by natural cliffs, mountains and grazing Dzo (cow yak half breed). Later, visit the Women’s Alliance of Nubra and meet the women who work together on handicrafts and traditional performing arts. Lunch in a family home in the Sumur farmlands. 
BLD | Chamba Camp at Diskit

Day 6: Nubra Valley – Thiksey. Drive straight up into the heavens through a colossal landscape and over the Khardung La pass at an elevation of 5,600 metres, among the highest stretches of motorable road in the world. On arrival into the Leh Valley, check into Chamba Camp Thiksey in an idyllic meadow setting. Admire the view from your tent of the Thiksey Monastery framed by rugged, snow-capped mountains. 
BLD | Chamba Camp at Thiksey

Day 7: Thiksey. Rise early and venture to nearby Thiksey Monastery, one of the most important Buddhist landmarks in the region. Hear the call of the conch and watch the monks gather peacefully for morning prayers. Let yourself be absorbed by the chanting and the beautiful surrounds of the prayer hall. Later, climb to the nearby ruins of the Shey Palace and Monastery. 
BLD | Chamba Camp at Thiksey

Day 8: Thiksey. Journey to the Hemis Monastery, the largest and wealthiest in Ladakh. Explore the museum filled with precious statues, texts and relics brought here by Red Hat monks who fled occupied Tibet over the high mountain passes. Return to your luxury camp and spend the rest of the day at leisure. 
BLD | Chamba Camp Thiksey

Day 9: Thiksey – Leh. Transfer to Leh airport for your onward journey.

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS
• Soak up the sunrise at the enchanting Thiksey Monastery
• Marvel at the impressive Leh Palace
• Meet local families and immerse yourself in a remote village culture
• Immerse yourself in high style at two of India’s leading tented camps
• Cross the impossibly high Khardung La Pass, one of the world’s highest motorable roads
FABLED HILL STATIONS & THE GOLDEN TEMPLE
11 DAYS – PRIVATE JOURNEY
DELHI – SHIMLA – PALAMPUR – DHARAMSHALA – AMRITSAR
PRICE: FROM $4,995 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $8,835.

Discover India at its most extraordinary. Step back in time in Shimla, once the summer retreat of the British Raj. Savour delicate infusions in the tea capital of Northern India, let the artists of Andretta ignite your creativity, and discover tranquillity in the home of the Dalai Lama. Wind through the mountains on the Himalayan Queen train and witness the theatrical flag lowering ceremony on the Wagah border.

Day 1: Arrive Delhi. Namaste and welcome to Delhi, India’s capital and northern gateway. Transfer to your hotel, The Oberoi, Gurgaon.

Day 2: Delhi – Shimla. Fly north to Chandigarh, independent India’s first planned city, designed by Le Corbusier. Visit the unusual Rock Garden and the Open Hand Monument built to commemorate peace and prosperity. Continue to Shimla, former summer capital of the British Raj. BL | The Oberoi Cecil

Day 3: Shimla. A glimpse into British colonial life today. Start at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, also known as the Viceregal Lodge, and meander through Shimla on foot, taking in the British architecture, museums, churches and the Jhako Temple. B | The Oberoi Cecil

Day 4: Shimla. Step aboard the famous Himalayan Queen train and travel through the Himalayan foothills along the century-old metre gauge line, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and engineering feat. Stop at Kandaghat station and return by road to Shimla. B | The Oberoi Cecil

Day 5: Shimla – Palampur. Head to Northern India’s tea capital and your lodge on the Wah Tea Estate, established in 1857. An in-depth tea immersion reveals the complex process from picking, drying and sorting to a cup of the finished brew at a special tea tasting. BLD | The Lodge at Wah

Day 6: Palampur. Venture to Andretta, a quaint artists’ colony established in the 1920s. Admire colourful artworks in local galleries and try your hand at a potter’s studio. Later, board the narrow gauge Kangra railway to Bajnath, marvel at the 13th century Shiva temple and admire the murals of Tashi Jong Monastery. BD | The Lodge at Wah

Day 7: Palampur – Dharamshala. Travel to Dharamshala and stop at a Gaddi nomadic settlement en route. Watch Tibetan artisans at the Norbulingka Institute and step inside the temple to see the frescoes. Arrive at your hotel in McLeod Ganj, home to the Dalai Lama and the centre of Little Tibet, with beautiful views of the snow-capped mountain range. BL | Fortune Park Moksha

Day 8: Dharamshala. Explore the Dalai Lama’s monastery, Tsuglag Khang, the largest Tibetan temple outside Tibet with around 200 monks. Continue to the small Gyuto Monastery, the recent home of the Tibetan spiritual leader. This evening, join Tibetans on a Kora Walk around the Dalai Lama temple and meet a Lama, if you wish. B | Fortune Park Moksha

Day 9: Dharamshala – Amritsar. Head to Amritsar, home of the magnificent Golden Temple, the most important pilgrimage site for Sikhs. This evening, head to the temple for the auspicious Palki Sahib night ceremony. Witness the holy book being carried from the main shrine to the inner sanctum amid the chanting of hymns. B | Taj Swarna

Day 10: Amritsar. Rise early to visit the shimmering Golden Temple as morning prayers begin. Step inside the communal kitchen where meals are prepared for the 35,000 pilgrims who visit daily. Explore the Hall Bazaar and pay your respects at Jallianwala Bagh, a memorial to the 1919 massacre. Afternoon at leisure or take a Punjabi culinary tour (additional charge). This evening, drive to the Wagah border between India and Pakistan and join hundreds to witness the theatrical pageant of the flags being lowered on both sides of the border. B | Taj Swarna

Day 11: Depart Amritsar. Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. B

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS
• Board the Himalayan Queen and ride the century-old metre gauge line
• Breathe in the cedar-scented air of Shimla, summer capital of the Raj
• Admire the home of the Dalai Lama, McLeod Ganj
• Ignite your creativity in the artist village of Andretta
• Stay on a working tea estate in Palampur, India’s tea capital

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY
MINDFULNESS & MEDITATION IN THE HIMALAYA – PRIVATE EXTENSION
4 DAYS FROM $2,145 PER PERSON TWIN
Rest and spiritually recharge after immersing yourself in all that India has to offer at the award-winning destination spa, Ananda in the Himalayas, located in the tranquil Himalayan foothills of northern India close to the cities of Haridwar and Rishikesh. Set in the 100-acre grounds of a Maharaja’s estate, Ananda is surrounded by graceful Sal forests and overlooks the Ganges River Valley. The Ananda philosophy integrates traditional Ayurveda, Yoga and Vedanta with international wellness experiences, fitness and healthy organic cuisine to restore balance and harmony. Please visit our website for more information.

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INDIA
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Kanchenjunga sunrise, Gangtok

Guru Rinpoche stupa, Kalimpong

Tea plantation, Darjeeling

Victoria Memorial, Kolkata

Flower market, Kolkata
REFLECTIONS OF EAST INDIA

10 DAYS – PRIVATE JOURNEY

KOLKATA – KALIMPONG – GANGOK – DARJEELING – BAGDOGRA

PRICE: FROM $5,075 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $7,445.

From fragrant tea plantations and snow-capped Himalayan peaks to bustling bazaars and the grandest colonial architecture, discover the hidden wonders of East India. Lose yourself in the soulful city of Kolkata and venture into striking Sikkim. Delight in Gangtok’s tapestry of mountain scenery and Buddhist spiritualism. Wander through tea plantations. And make the train journey of a lifetime on the famous Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

Day 1: Arrive Kolkata. Welcome to soulful Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal, and your grand heritage hotel. The Oberoi Grand

Day 2: Kolkata. Early this morning, visit the vibrant flower market then tour colonial Kolkata on foot. See Dalhousie Square, now known as B.B.D. Bagh, in the political heart of the city. Admire the architecture and continue to the revered Mother Teresa House. Sample Bengali cuisine over lunch at Oh! Calcutta and roam around the domed white marble Victoria Memorial. End the day in the Maidan, the city’s largest urban park. BL | The Oberoi Grand

Day 3: Kolkata. Wander the maze of narrow lanes in 400-year-old Kumortuli and watch as elaborately painted idols of Hindu gods and goddesses are produced for the colourful Durga Puja festivities. Explore the city on foot and breathe in the lively atmosphere at Kolkata market. This evening, join local art collector Bomti Iyengar at his heritage home for an evening of Bengali hospitality. BD | The Oberoi Grand

Day 4: Kolkata – Kalimpong. Fly to Bagdogra and journey overland to Kalimpong. Discover this bustling bazaar town and hill station on foot. B | Elgin Silver Oaks Kalimpong

Day 5: Kalimpong – Gangtok. Venture to Zang-Dhok-Pari Phodang, the area’s largest and most beautiful monastery, and admire rare orchids and cacti in a local nursery. Later, journey to the capital of Sikkim, Gangtok, famous for its magnificent views of Kanchenjunga, the world’s third highest mountain. BL | Mayfair Spa Resort & Casino

Day 6: Gangtok. Uncover layers of Buddhist and Tibetan culture today. Begin at the Rumtek Monastery, the richest monastic centre in India, housing some of the world’s rarest and most unique religious artefacts. Move on to the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology and lose yourself in a vast collection of rare manuscripts, statues, tapestries and icons. Admire the varied and vibrant handicrafts of local craftsmen, then an afternoon at leisure. B | Mayfair Spa Resort & Casino

Day 7: Gangtok – Darjeeling. Rise early to capture the glowing sunrise over Kanchenjunga, soaring 8,598 metres above sea level. After breakfast, journey through cardamom and ginger plantations and paddy fields to Darjeeling. The queen of British colonial hill stations, Darjeeling is home to almost a quarter of India’s tea production and you’ll learn all about it at Glenburn Tea Estate. BD | Glenburn Tea Estate

Day 8: Darjeeling. Start at the Ghoom Monastery, with its colourful prayer flags, and continue to the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, founded in 1954, just after Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay first scaled Everest. Visit the Darjeeling Zoo, home of the Snow Leopard Breeding Centre. Then see locals making handicrafts and carpets at the Tibetan Refugee Centre and take a ride on the famous small-gauge Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, or “Toy Train”, to Ghoom, the world’s second highest railway station. BLD | Glenburn Tea Estate

Day 9: Darjeeling. Discover the secrets of Darjeeling’s tea at Glenburn Tea Estate on an estate tour. Learn how to care for the tea bushes, pluck the “two leaves and a bud” and see the journey of the leaf from farm to tea cup. Then, appreciate the delicate flavours in a tasting. Afternoon at leisure. BLD | Glenburn Tea Estate

Day 10: Darjeeling – Depart Bagdogra. Transfer to Bagdogra Airport for your onward journey. B

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

• Immerse yourself in the vibrant city of Kolkata
• Explore the wondrous world of Darjeeling tea at Glenburn Tea Estate
• Witness a glowing sunrise over the world’s third tallest mountain
• Ride the famous Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, a UNESCO World Heritage site
• Find sanctuary in some of the most atmospheric hotels in India

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY

RHINOS OF KAZIRANGA – PRIVATE EXTENSION

4 DAYS FROM $1,065 PER PERSON TWIN

Encounter a wilderness rich in natural beauty and rare animals, including the one-horned rhinoceros, at Kaziranga National Park. Located in Assam, in India’s far east, the park is an incredible story of conservation success.

ANDAMAN ISLANDS SOJOURN – PRIVATE EXTENSION

4 DAYS FROM $1,845 PER PERSON TWIN

The Andaman Islands sit within the warm waters of the Bay of Bengal. Relax on the soft sands of pristine beaches, scuba-dive among spectacular coral reefs, and explore the islands’ volcanic mountains and dense jungles, teeming with endemic birds and tropical butterflies. Please visit our website for more information.

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INDIA
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Classic South India cuisine

Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus railway station, Mumbai

Kailasa Temple, Ellora Caves, Aurangabad

Puducherry
SPIRIT OF SOUTH INDIA

13 DAYS - PRIVATE JOURNEY
MUMBAI - AURANGABAD - HYDERABAD - PUDUCHERRY - CHENNAI

PRICE: FROM $7,265 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $12,295.

Uncover the spirit of Southern India where intriguing cultures, mouth-watering cuisine and rich history await. Spark your creativity in dynamic Mumbai. Walk in the footsteps of the Nizam of Hyderabad, once the richest man in the world. Marvel at the distinctly French ambience of Puducherry and be enchanted by life in one of the world’s great utopian communities, Auroville.

Day 1: Arrive Mumbai. Welcome to Mumbai, the gateway to India, and transfer privately to one of India’s most iconic hotels. The Taj Mahal Palace

Day 2: Mumbai. Embark on a guided walking tour from the Gateway of India, to the Royal Mumbai Yacht Club, the Police Headquarters, and City Museum. Navigate Mumbai’s vibrant art area, Kala Ghoda, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus and soak up market vibes before lunch at Bombay Canteen. BL | The Taj Mahal Palace

Day 3: Mumbai – Aurangabad. Rise at dawn to watch the city wake. Start at the Sassoon docks, see a fish auction and meet local traders. Return to the hotel for breakfast. Later, en route to the airport, stop at the famous Dhobi Ghat, outdoor laundry. Fly to Aurangabad.
B | Vivanta Aurangabad

Day 4: Aurangabad. Journey to the enchanting Ajanta Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where Buddhist sculptures and frescoes are beautifully carved into the rock.
BL | Vivanta Aurangabad

Day 5: Aurangabad – Hyderabad. Venture into the Ellora Caves. Dating back to the 4th and 9th centuries, the complex comprises 33 Hindu, Jain and Buddhist cave temples. In Cave 16, see the headline act: Kailasa Temple. This evening, fly to Hyderabad. B | Taj Falaknuma Palace

Day 6: Hyderabad. Discover Hyderabad at your own pace. Tour the Qutub Shahi Tombs and the Golconda Fort, or visit a weaving centre to learn about the revival of Persian brocades (additional charges). This evening, take a tour around the opulent palace with champagne in hand. B | Taj Falaknuma Palace

Day 7: Hyderabad. Uncover the rich contrasts of this enthralling city on a guided walk. See the splendid palaces, bustling bazaars and Muslim monuments, including the stunning Jama Masjid and the famous Charminar. Afternoon at leisure before a culinary adventure this evening.
BD | Taj Falaknuma Palace

Day 8: Hyderabad – Puducherry. Fly to Puducherry, a.k.a. ‘Pondy’, and your boutique hotel in the heart of the old French Quarter. Explore on foot this afternoon. Admire the colonial-era mansions, quirky cafés and the thriving community at Sri Aurobindo Ashram.
B | Palais de Mahe

Day 9: Puducherry. Witness life in one of the world’s great utopian communities, Auroville. See the impressive Matrimandir, a huge golden globe used as a meditation centre. Stop off at Mohanam Cultural Centre, designed to preserve the rich cultural heritage of South India.
BL | Palais de Mahe

Day 10: Puducherry. Wake up in your delightful hotel and spend a full day exploring at your own pace. Stroll along the promenade overlooking the sea, relax in one of the many cafés or search out one of the beaches that dot the coastline.
B | Palais de Mahe

BL | Taj Connemara

Day 12: Chennai. Spend your morning exploring at your own pace. Take a peek into colonial Madras and discover the rich legacy of the buildings left by the British or walk into an Indian kitchen and take a journey through the cuisine of the south and learn the secrets of various spice blends (additional charge). Mid-afternoon, head to Georgetown for a walking discovery of the narrow winding streets and by-lanes, lively bazaars and remnants of Chennai’s colonial past, including Fort St George, built by the East India Company in 1640. Return to your hotel with a stop at Marina Beach.
B | Taj Connemara

Day 13: Depart Chennai. Transfer to the airport for your onward journey.
B

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS
• Discover Mumbai’s vibrant history, art and culture on a walking tour
• Marvel at intricate rock carvings in the Ajanta and Ellora caves
• Learn the secrets behind a traditional Biryani in a culinary experience
• Witness life in one of the world’s great utopian communities, Auroville
• See the sublime rock art in Mahabalipuram, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY

HIDDEN HAMPI – PRIVATE EXTENSION
4 DAYS FROM $1,725 PER PERSON TWIN
Unveil the enchanting tales of a once-forgotten city. The 600-year-old Vijayanagara kingdom of Hampi, located in Karnataka, was once one of the largest cities in the world. Now the ruins of its ancient palaces and temples lie in a lunar landscape of boulders waiting to be discovered. Ramble through the ruins uncovering fascinating tales from South India’s largest, wealthiest and most powerful kingdom. Then, venture into the rugged hills beyond to explore the living cultures of today. Please visit our website for more information.
INDIA
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Kumarakom Lake Resort
Western Ghats
Chinese fishing nets, Kochi
Kathakali performer, Kochi
ESSENTIAL KERALA

9 DAYS – PRIVATE JOURNEY
KOCHI – PERIYAR NATIONAL PARK – BACKWATERS (ALLEPPEY) – KUMARAKOM – KOCHI

PRICE: FROM $3,615 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $6,445.

From Kochi’s vibrant art scene to Alleppey’s shimmering backwaters, and lush forested hills to fragrant spice plantations, Kerala promises an exotic medley of different landscapes and cultures. Immerse yourself in the region’s rich cultural legacy with vibrant dance and ancient martial arts. Taste the freshness, spice and tropical flavours of local cuisine. Drift along sleepy backwaters in a private houseboat and wander amongst exotic birds, butterflies and elephants.

Day 1: Arrive Kochi. Welcome to the historic and vibrant port city of Kochi (or Cochin), the oldest European settlement in India. Brunton Boatyard

Day 2: Kochi. Experience local life in Kochi. Admire the famous Chinese fishing nets and watch as the fishermen reveal their catch. Visit the fish market and continue to the once powerful steam boilers and ruins of Fort Emmanuel. See the Church of St Francis and Santa Cruz Basilica. Hop in a tuk tuk to the Dhobi Khana (laundry station) and explore the narrow lanes of Mattancherry. Visit the markets and Jew town. Later, step inside the home of a local Brahmin family. This evening, take in a Kathakali performance, one of the oldest dance forms in the area. B | Brunton Boatyard

Day 3: Kochi. Explore the Malabar Coast’s intriguing mix of faiths and cultures. Begin at the old synagogue then marvel at the Paliam Kovilakam, the traditional home of Kochi’s Prime Ministers. This afternoon, relax or delve deeper with optional activities (additional charge). Join a local art expert for a walking tour or ride pillion on a Royal Enfield through local villages. B | Brunton Boatyard

Day 4: Kochi – Periyar National Park. Drive east to Periyar National Park, a nature lover’s dream. Discover one of the region’s richest hubs of biodiversity and a protected reserve for both elephant and tiger. This evening, witness Kerala’s ancient, and thrilling, martial art form, Kalariipayattu. BD | Spice Village

Day 5: Periyar National Park. Rise early and join your expert guide for a nature walk. Look out for colourful birdlife, elephant, the rare lion-tailed macaque and even the occasional big cat. After breakfast, visit a local spice plantation where exotic aromas will stir your senses. Learn how to cultivate cinnamon, cardamom, clove, black pepper, ginger, turmeric, vanilla and nutmeg. Then, feast on a lunch of distinctive Keralan cuisine made from the freshest ingredients. BLD | Spice Village

Day 6: Periyar National Park – Backwaters (Alleppey). Journey overland to the village of Alleppey, gateway to the serene backwaters. Board your private houseboat for an overnight cruise. Float lazily through the timeless landscape and savour a delicious feast of Kerala cuisine prepared by your onboard chef. BLD | Houseboat Kumarakom Lake Resort

Day 7: Backwaters (Alleppey) – Kumarakom. Leave your houseboat behind at Kumarakom, a tranquil village on a cluster of lake islands. Ease into the local pace of life at Philipkutty’s Farm, breathe in the fragrant spices, bananas, mangos and coconuts and enjoy a cooking demonstration and lunch. Continue to Kumarakom Lake Resort on the scenic banks of Lake Vembanad. BL | Kumarakom Lake Resort

Day 8: Kumarakom. Indulge in a full day at leisure. Take part in yoga sessions or relax in one of several large swimming pools. Alternatively, choose from the resort’s activity menu, which includes fishing from a traditional canoe, a cycling tour of local villages, and a visit to the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary, or step into the extensive Ayurvedic spa and try one of the many treatments (paid locally). B | Kumarakom Lake Resort

Day 9: Kumarakom – Depart Kochi. Farewell your Keralan sanctuary and receive a private transfer to Kochi airport for your onward journey. B

Day 10: Arrive Kochi. This morning, transfer to Kochi airport for your onward journey.

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS
• Explore the harbour town of Kochi, the captivating “Queen of the Arabian Sea”
• Cruise the sleepy Kerala backwaters aboard a traditional converted Kettuvallum
• Discover a nature lover’s paradise in Periyar National Park
• Witness Kerala’s ancient martial arts and dance performances
• Breathe in exotic aromas in a traditional spice plantation

NORTHERN KERALA BEACH STAY
Discover the unspoiled beaches of northern Kerala where fishermen unload their catch from colourful wooden boats and coastal villages peek through palm groves to golden sands and beyond to the Arabian Sea. There are a number of luxurious villas and resorts to choose from, including the Taj Bekal Resort & Spa. Set amidst a canopy of abundant greenery at the confluence of the backwaters and sea, it is the perfect place to unwind and explore the sleepy coastline. Please visit our website for more information.

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY
• Breathe in exotic aromas in a traditional spice plantation
• Witness Kerala’s ancient martial arts and dance performances
• Discover a nature lover’s paradise in Periyar National Park
• Cruise the sleepy Kerala backwaters aboard a traditional converted Kettuvallum
• Explore the harbour town of Kochi, the captivating “Queen of the Arabian Sea”

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KUMARAKOM – KOCHI
KOCHI – PERIYAR NATIONAL PARK – BACKWATERS (ALLEPPEY) – KUMARAKOM – KOCHI

FROM $3,615 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $6,445.
Wonderful in every way, the Taj Lake Palace was built between 1743 and 1746. It is a truly regal building, its gleaming, white marble façade rising from the surface of the lake topped by domes, arches and gilded detailing. Inside, the public areas combine breathtaking views with eye-catching interiors. The rooms too are utterly palatial. With frescoes and superb original features in abundance, they showcase the finest modern craftsmanship, yet never leave their heritage behind. In truth, they have to be seen to be believed - suffice it to say that, with their beautiful décor, furniture and furnishings, they are fit for royalty.

Spread over 19,400 square metres, the sumptuous Taj Falaknuma Palace is one of the most remarkable sights in Hyderabad. The hotel is superb in every detail – thanks to a sensitive 10 year restoration – from the stunning neo-classical façade to its 60 exquisite rooms and suites. Large Venetian chandeliers, rare furniture, grand marble staircases, priceless statues, and objets d’art reflect its palatial origins along with the stained-glass windows and the Palace Library, a replica of the one at Windsor Castle and home to the rarest of manuscripts, books and one of the most acclaimed collections of the Holy Quran in the country.
Chamba Camp Thiksey is one of the most luxurious camps in the Himalayas. A bold claim, but guests regularly return surprised at the high standards of accommodation: each of the 14 suite tents, 11 luxury suite tents and three Presidential suite tents are individually designed, with four-poster beds, en suite bathrooms, opulent chandeliers, handwoven rugs, private decks, crisp linens and even the services of your own butler. Tents are fitted with air-conditioning and heating and the food is plentiful and delicious. During the day, there’s a wide range of activities to choose from – all of them designed to showcase the region’s scenic beauty and culture.

Suján Jawai has been designed in a style that combines subtle opulence with abundant adventure. It features 10 beautifully styled white canvas tents complete with en suite bathrooms and a large private verandah. This is camping at its most elegant with a team of highly trained and gracious staff to look after your every need. The Spa at Jawai is a perfect spot to unwind and relax. Daily game drives in customised 4WD jeeps are included with additional activities such as village visits and walks, bird watching or wellness activities.

Listed by Time Magazine in the World’s 100 Greatest Places of 2018, Alila Fort Bishangarh perches magnificently on a hill sculpted from the surrounding Aravalli range. The converted 18th century fort is an architecturally striking and wonderfully secluded Rajasthani retreat with palatial interiors that showcase both British and Mughal architectural influences with pared back simplicity. An infinity pool is positioned just below the fort and there are three restaurants as well as Spa Alila. A range of Alila experiences are offered including cooking classes, temple visits, village visits and artisan encounters.

Originally built in 1729 by the Maharaja of Jaipur, Suján Rajmahal has a grand original marble staircase and intricate chandeliers. This palace has stood the test of time and has now been carefully renovated to offer palatial living to the discerning traveller. A rainbow of colours has been used to counterbalance the old world art and contemporary touches have been carefully added. 14 rooms and suites boast vibrant interiors with wallpapers that have been specially created for each room and tell the many stories of Jaipur. With two restaurants, there’s a chance to dine in elegant surroundings discovering the authentic Indian flavours of Jaipur.
SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka is a dreamy, tropical destination with a landscape of upland tea plantations, jungles, and a coastline of palm-fringed beaches. Formerly known as Ceylon and Serendib, Sri Lanka’s culture is shaped by Buddhist philosophy and infused with Portuguese, Dutch, and English flavours. Guests enjoy one-of-a-kind experiences that show off Sri Lanka’s captivating customs and scenic vistas. Sample some of Sri Lanka’s staple foods, from flavourful curries to savoury kottus and hoppers. Wander the ancient palace ruins at the medieval capital of Polonnaruwa, breathe in the smell of fresh flowers at Kandy’s Royal Botanical Gardens, and sink your toes into the sand at Mawella beach.

UNMISSABLE SRI LANKA

CULTURAL TRIANGLE
Situated in the central plains of Sri Lanka, the Cultural Triangle is the nucleus of early Sinhalese civilisation, centred around the great cities of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, whose impressive monuments still serve as powerful reminders of that golden age. The other three World Heritage sites are the majestic rock fortress of Sigiriya, the cave complex of Dambulla and the sacred city of Kandy.

TEA COUNTRY
The mist-covered mountains of Sri Lanka’s central highlands shelter over 400,000 acres of lush tea plantations. Introduced by the British in 1867, tea remains the country’s major import. Stay in classic colonial bungalows built for British tea planters and visit the factories for an immersive tea experience.

COLOMBO
Dating back over 600 years, the Sri Lankan capital was a trading hub for sea merchants and colonial rulers. It boasts a wide array of Buddhist and Hindu temples, mosques and churches reflecting the various beliefs. Admire the beautiful facades of old, colonial buildings, Geoffrey Bawa’s architectural legacy or head to Galle Face Green and relax with the locals.
SRI LANKA
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Bustling streets of Kandy

Galle Fort

Tea fields from the air

Yala National Park

Vil Uyana, Sigiriya
SRI LANKA BY AIR

9 DAYS – PRIVATE JOURNEY
NEGOMBO – SIGIRIYA – KANDY – YALA NATIONAL PARK – GALLE – NEGOMBO

PRICE: FROM $5,955 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $9,455.

Venture deep into the heart of Sri Lanka on this phenomenal journey which conveniently links key sites and attractions by air, avoiding long drives. Trace a fascinating history from the 1st century Dambulla Cave Temple to the colonial streets of Galle. Head out on safari in search of leopard and elephant. And at the end of each day, find sanctuary in wondrous accommodation.

Day 1: Arrive Negombo. Ayubowan and welcome to Sri Lanka with VIP Fast Track arrival services. The Wallawwa Day 2: Negombo – Sigiriya. Fly to Sigiriya and drive to your luxury hotel. This afternoon, journey to Minneriya National Park, within Sri Lanka’s elephant corridor, for prime elephant sightings on a game drive. B | Vil Uyana

Day 3: Sigiriya. Journey to the magnificent rock fortress of Sigiriya, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Wander through picturesque water gardens and climb past the ancient and colossal Lion’s Paws to a steep winding staircase which takes you up to the top. Pause during your ascent to admire the mirror wall and the famous Sigirya frescoes. B | Vil Uyana

Day 4: Sigiriya – Kandy. Rise early for a hot air balloon ride (additional charge) at sunrise. Continue to Kandy, the cultural capital, pausing en route at Dambulla, an important Buddhist cave complex resplendent with frescoes. In Kandy, witness an auspicious offering at the famous Temple of the Sacred Tooth, said to house one of Buddha’s teeth. B | Kings Pavilion

Day 5: Kandy – Yala National Park. Fly to Hambantota on the south coast and continue overland to your eco-camp on the border of Yala National Park. Embark on an evening safari drive and discover firsthand why this wildlife park is a haven for nature lovers. Your tracker’s eagle-eyed vision will ensure you come away with snapshots of magnificent animals, including leopard, sloth and elephant, in their natural habitat. BLD | Kulu Safari Yala

Day 6: Yala National Park. Wake early for an early morning game drive, and see the park come to life with animals and birdlife. As well as the thrilling leopard, elephant and sloth population, some 200 different species of bird make this park their home. Return to the camp for breakfast and a day at leisure, before another thrilling safari drive at dusk. BLD | Kulu Safari Yala

Day 7: Yala National Park – Galle. Experience a nearby cattle farm and rice paddy fields for a glimpse into local life. Then, leave the wilds and head along the south coast to Galle. Settle into your hotel before a tour of the historic city. Discover a unique blend of the exotic and colonial in this UNESCO World Heritage site. Uncover the fascinating architectural legacies of Portuguese and Dutch settlers alongside traditional Sri Lankan structures. Stroll through the Galle Fort and learn about the Dutch East India Company that operated from within, visit the Maritime Museum, the Old Dutch Reformed Church, Sun and Moon bastions, and more. As sunset approaches, climb the ramparts and sip a refreshing cup of Ceylon tea – or something stronger – with magnificent views. Return to your hotel within the walls of the famous historic fort and enjoy sundowners. B | Amangalla

Day 8: Galle. Spend your day exploring at your own pace. Let your chauffeur guide show you the sights. Go whale watching on a private speed boat, explore the fascinating villages surrounding Galle on a guided bicycle ride or chill out on the beach at Unawatuna and catch a wave in the gentle surf (additional charges). B | Amangalla

Day 9: Galle – Depart Negombo. A private transfer to the airport for your onward journey. B

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS
• Climb to the ancient citadel of Sigirya
• Marvel at the spiritual temple caves of Dambulla
• Witness elephants in their natural habitat in Minneriya National Park
• Step inside the Temple of the Sacred Tooth
• Search for Sri Lankan leopards on safari

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY

TRANQUIL TRINCOMALEE – PRIVATE EXTENSION
4 DAYS FROM $1,895 PER PERSON TWIN

The ancient and charming port city of Trincomalee is a great place to unwind. An easy distance from Colombo, Trinco has plenty of history, an old Dutch fort and a famous temple which hosts the annual Chariot Festival. But its biggest draws are its palm-fringed golden beaches, hot springs, the coral reefs around Pigeon Island and the opportunities for blue whale and dolphin watching (seasonal). Please visit our website for more information.

AKP supported project: Project Leopard
SRI LANKA
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Tea plantation, Hatton Dambulla Cave Temple

Ulagalla Resort, Anuradhapura

Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Traditional performers, Kandy
SERENDIPITOUS SRI LANKA

12 DAYS – PRIVATE JOURNEY

COLOMBO – ANURADHAPURA – KANDY – HILL COUNTRY (DICKOYA) – NEGOMBO

PRICE: FROM $6,825 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $10,635.

Welcome to Sri Lanka, an island of lush jungle and paddy fields, tea plantations and rock temples. Your discovery reveals idyllic Colombo, the magnificent rock-top fortress of Sigiriya, Kandy’s Temple of the Tooth and the spiritual caves of Dambulla. Taste a whirl of local flavours. Find your home-from-home in a colonial-style tea planter’s bungalow and seek out leopard and sloth bear in the wild.

Day 1: Arrive Colombo. Ayubowan and a VIP welcome to Colombo. Uga Residence

Day 2: Colombo. Head out to uncover an architectural wonder at Colombo Residence No. 11, former home of renowned Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa. Discover his sophisticated sense of style and artistic flair as you wander through the home. Meet with a curator at a gallery featuring works by leading and emerging artists. Continue to Barefoot Gallery and appreciate the important contribution that it has made on art and fabric design. This evening, a journey of culinary discovery and a chance to sample a unique fusion of Indian, Malay, Dutch and Portuguese flavours. B | Uga Residence


Day 4: Anuradhapura. Influenced by Buddhism, Anuradhapura was once the capital, and most important, of the ancient Sinhalese kingdoms. Explore this extraordinary site by bike and along the way sample tropical fruits and receive a blessing at the sacred Jaya Sri Maha Bodhi, the world’s oldest recorded tree. B | Ulagalla Resort

Day 5: Anuradhapura. Venture to the largest of the country’s wildlife zones, Wilpattu National Park. Embark on a game drive keeping your camera handy for elephant, spotted deer, barking deer, wild boar, buffalo, an array of wetland birds and, with luck, sloth bear and leopard. Later, enjoy sundowners with a view across an ancient water tank. B | Ulagalla Resort

Day 6: Anuradhapura – Kandy. Rise early for your journey to the magnificent rock fortress of Sigiriya, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Wander through picturesque gardens, past pools and fountains and climb 200 metres up to the top. Pause during your ascent to admire the mirror wall and the famous Sigiriya frescoes. Enjoy a homecooked lunch with a local farmer before continuing to the cultural capital, Kandy. Later, witness auspicious offerings at the famous Temple of the Tooth. BL | Kings Pavilion

Day 7: Kandy. Discover Kandy your way with a day at leisure. Learn about its rich history at the National Museum, stroll through the local markets or discover the unique collection of more than 4000 plants at the wonderful Royal Botanical Gardens (additional charge). Be entertained this evening by unique music and traditional dance at a Kandyen Cultural Show and meet the dancers backstage. B | Kings Pavilion

Day 8: Kandy – Hill Country (Dickoya). Ride one of the most scenic railways though the highlands to the hill station of Hatton. Roll past emerald tea estates and find your home at Ceylon Tea Trails, a cluster of colonial-era planters’ bungalows. BD | Ceylon Tea Trails

Day 9: Hill Country (Dickoya). Enter the wonderful world of tea on a morning tour through tea country. Learn about the process from field to factory and sample some prized beverages at a special high tea. BLD | Ceylon Tea Trails

Day 10: Hill Country (Dickoya). Day at leisure to enjoy your luxury accommodation indulging in wonderful food and wine. Alternatively, explore more of the tea estate by bike or on foot. BLD | Ceylon Tea Trails

Day 11: Hill Country (Dickoya) – Negombo. Journey back to Colombo and your boutique hotel close to the beaches of Negombo. B | The Wallawwa

Day 12: Negombo – Depart Colombo. Transfer to the airport for your onward journey. B

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

• Marvel at the temple caves of Dambulla
• Witness an auspicious offering to the Sacred Tooth Relic
• Pedal through the ancient city of Anuradhapura
• Embark on a mouth-watering foodie tour in Colombo
• Roam through the ancient rock fortress of Sigiriya

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY

WILDLIFE OF YALA NATIONAL PARK – PRIVATE EXTENSION
4 DAYS FROM $3,625 PER PERSON TWIN
Explore Sri Lanka’s extraordinary wildlife at Yala National Park. The country’s second largest game park, its habitats range from forest to scrub, with abundant wildlife – including the highest concentration of leopard in the world.

SOUTHERN COAST SOJOURN – PRIVATE EXTENSION
4 DAYS FROM $1,985 PER PERSON TWIN
Complement your Sri Lanka journey on the country’s glorious south coast with a choice of luxury resorts including elegant Cape Weligama Resort, or the new Anantara Peace Heaven Tangalle Resort. Both offer plenty to do including diving, snorkelling, and whale watching (in season).
SRI LANKA
LIMITED EDITION SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

Stilt fisherman of the south coast
Picking tea leaves, Nuwara Eliya
Sigirya Palace ruins
Buddha statue, Polonnaruwa Temple
Spices of Sri Lanka
SRI LANKA: SECRETS OF THE SPICE ISLAND

15 DAYS - LIMITED EDITION SMALL GROUP JOURNEY
COLOMBO - SIGIRIYA - KANDY - NUWARA ELIYA - GALLE - NEGOMBO


PRICE: FROM $7,895 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FROM $2,360.

Peel back the layers of this beguiling island nation and you’ll discover a deeply spiritual place where Buddhist values influence daily life and a rich cultural heritage is interwoven with colonial influences. Explore five World Heritage sites and traverse a range of landscapes from golden beaches and arid plains to lush tea plantations and mist-covered mountains. Dine out on the fragrant and flavoursome cuisine and meet the locals.

Day 1: Arrive Colombo. Fast track arrival service and transfer to your grand historic hotel on Galle Face Green. Galle Face Hotel

Day 2: Colombo. Most of today is at leisure. Later this afternoon, join your Resident Tour Director for a journey briefing and welcome sundowners. BD | Galle Face Hotel

Day 3: Colombo. Meet a Colombo local who will escort you on a captivating walk through the old part of town. This afternoon, explore by tuk tuk, the quintessential way to travel in Colombo. B | Galle Face Hotel

Day 4: Colombo – Sigiriya. Head to the Cultural Triangle where ancient World Heritage sites abound and your resort-style boutique hotel awaits. BLD | Water Garden

Day 5: Sigiriya. Rise early for a hot air balloon ride (additional charge) or an early morning alms giving ceremony at a temple. Afterwards, meet a local farming family for a cooking demonstration. Late this afternoon, climb the imposing 5th century Sigiriya Rock Fortress, a World Heritage site. Admire the famous Sigiriya frescoes along the way and soak up the breathtaking views. BLD | Water Garden

Day 6: The Cultural Triangle. This morning, take in World Heritage listed Polonnaruwa, another of the great ruins. One of the best ways of getting around is by bike. BLD | Water Garden

Day 7: Sigiriya – Kandy. An early start to visit the extraordinary Buddhist cave temples at Dambulla before continuing south to Kandy, the country’s cultural capital. BLD | Cinnamon Citadel

Day 8: Kandy. See how local families handcraft brass from start to finish in a local workshop. After lunch, explore the busy streets on foot with a local expert. Wander through winding alleyways, sample local delicacies and take a peek inside a Hindu temple. The day ends at the Temple of the Tooth with a spiritual pooja ceremony. BLD | Cinnamon Citadel

Day 9: Kandy – Nuwara Eliya. Join a professor of botany at the Royal Botanical Gardens for an educational walk through the extraordinary botanical collection. Afterwards, head for the hill country and your hotel in a converted tea factory. BLD | Heritance Tea Factory

Day 10: Nuwara Eliya. Drive through tea estates to Nuwara Eliya for an immersion in the world of Ceylon tea. BLD | Heritance Tea Factory


Day 12: Galle. Get active today on a 12 kilometre cycling tour in and around Galle. Late this afternoon, visit the famous stilt fishermen, an iconic photographic opportunity. Dinner tonight is at a favourite restaurant inside the old Dutch fort. BLD | Jetwing Lighthouse

Day 13: Galle. Culinary secrets await when you meet a local chef for a visit to the markets. Help select the best fresh produce for an interactive cooking class and lunch. This afternoon, a treasure hunt through Galle Fort on foot with a local historian before sundowners and a special dinner. BLD | Jetwing Lighthouse

Day 14: Galle – Negombo. This morning meet traditional mask makers in a nearby workshop. Afterwards, drive north to Lunuganga Estate, the former country home of Geoffrey Bawa, for lunch. BLD | Jetwing Lagoon

Day 15: Depart Negombo. Transfer to the airport for your departure flight. B

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

• Wander through the streets of old Colombo with a local
• Take part in the Buddhist tradition of almsgiving at a local temple
• Pedal your way through the lush countryside around Galle
• Join the myriad pilgrims for a nightly prayer ritual at the Sacred Temple of the Tooth
• Trace the process of Ceylon tea from beginning to end in a tea plantation

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY

MALDIVES

Located off the southern tip of India is the slender chain of coral islands known as the Maldives, a picture-perfect combination of luxury oceanfront cabanas, overwater bungalows, aquamarine lagoons, and swaying palm trees. A Maldives holiday is the perfect way to treat yourself to a touch of luxury and unwind from the stresses of everyday life. Our Abercrombie & Kent travel experts have decades of experience preparing custom itineraries for visitors in search of a unique, rejuvenating getaway. Whether you are celebrating your honeymoon, an anniversary, or you’re travelling with friends and family, we spare no detail in preparing a Maldivian holiday you won’t soon forget. Please visit our website for more information.

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BHUTAN & NEPAL

Discover the rich artistic and cultural heritage of these neighbouring Himalayan countries where strict Buddhist values are upheld and colourful festivals celebrated. Hike to remote monasteries and sacred sites, meet local farmers in their villages and fields, trek to high mountain passes, watch artisans at work and savour tasty local cuisine while soaking up some of the world’s most breathtaking scenery.

UNMISSABLE HIMALAYA

PARO VALLEY, BHUTAN
Surrounded by snow-covered mountains and pine forests, the dramatic Paro Valley is an historical hotspot with over 150 temples and monasteries, including the iconic Taktsang (Tiger’s Nest) Monastery, as well as the imposing Paro Dzong.

PUNAKHA VALLEY, BHUTAN
Punakha’s picturesque green valley is entirely dominated by the 17th century Punakha Dzong, a vast walled monastery set at the confluence of two rivers. Other highlights include Chimi Lhakhang, and the incredible valley views from Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten.

KATHMANDU & THE VALLEY, NEPAL
Nestled in the Kathmandu Valley at an altitude of 1,400 metres, Kathmandu is the Nepalese capital and a gateway to the Himalayas and the Annapurna range. The city has more World Heritage-listed sites than any other in the world and the fertile Kathmandu Valley is full of sacred sites and medieval villages like Bhaktapur and Patan.

CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK, NEPAL
Nepal’s most famous wildlife reserve, Chitwan National Park is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Jeep safaris with skilled rangers reveal rare animals, such as the endangered one-horned rhino, Bengal tiger, Indian elephant, sloth bear and over 550 bird varieties.
BHUTAN
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Taktsang Monastery, Paro

Uma Paro terrace view

Young monk with butter lamps

Punakha Dzong

Young boy and grandmother
Venture into the eastern Himalaya to one of the last untouched bastions of ancient civilisation, Bhutan. A place where mountain legends, quiet spirituality and dramatic snow-capped vistas await. Step inside mountaintop monasteries and experience the wonders of Buddhist spirituality. Trek through emerald valleys surrounded by soaring peaks and glacial rivers. And explore the rich culture of the local community, unchanged for centuries.

**Day 1:** Arrive Paro – Thimphu. Tashi Dek and welcome to Bhutan. Later, visit the Memorial Chorten, a large Tibetan-style Buddhist monastery designed to be the most visible religious structure in Thimphu. LD | Taj Tashi

**Day 2:** Thimphu. Step inside a monastery to watch monks chanting their daily prayers. Receive a blessing and experience Bhutan’s spirituality in a butter lamp lighting ceremony. Delve into the country’s past at the National Library. Visit the Folk Heritage Museum and the National Institute of Traditional Medicine. Continue to the National Textile Museum and Handicraft Emporium. Finally, visit the Tashichho Dzong (fortress). BLD | Taj Tashi

**Day 3:** Thimphu – Punakha. Journey east over the spectacular Dochu La Pass (3,140 metres). Breathe in the most enchanting views before continuing into the green vale of Punakha. Take a short hike to Chimi Lhakhang, the temple of the Divine Madman. See the stunning 17th century Punakha Dzong, the second largest in Bhutan. BLD | Amankora, Punakha

**Day 4:** Punakha. Take a hike through pine forests to Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten, set on a beautiful ridge above the Punakha valley. This fine example of Bhutanese architecture and artistic traditions was built by Bhutan’s Queen Mother. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure. If you’re feeling adventurous, take a rafting trip at Pho Chhu (additional charge). BLD | Amankora, Punakha

**Day 5:** Punakha – Paro. Journey overland to Paro and see the impressive Paro Dzong, perhaps the finest in Bhutan. Cross a wooden bridge over the river and continue to an ancient watchtower which now houses the National Museum. Later, enjoy Bhutanese hospitality when you are welcomed into a colourful farmhouse. Sip tea with the locals and take part in the cherished ritual of hanging prayer flags to send Buddhist blessings through the winds at Kyichu Lhakhang. Built in the seventh century to subdue a demoness who prevented the spread of Buddhism, it is one of Bhutan’s oldest religious sites. BLD | COMO Uma Paro

**Day 6:** Paro. Rise early for an unforgettable hike to Taktang Monastery (the Tiger’s Nest). Clinging to sheer granite cliffs high above the valley floor, this seemingly impregnable fortress is truly magnificent. Spend the day among the monks at this sacred pilgrimage site, where the great tantric mystic Guru Rinpoche is believed to have flown on the back of a tiger to bring the teachings of the Buddhism Dharma to Bhutan. This evening, try your skills at Bhutan’s national sport on the resort’s archery field or take a traditional Bhutanese hot stone bath for the perfect end to your day’s adventures. BLD | COMO Uma Paro

**Day 7:** Paro. Head along the inspiring route to Chele La Pass (3,810 metres) and take in spectacular views of the sacred Jhomolhari and Jitchu Drake mountains. Continue over the pass into the Haa Valley, also known as “Hidden-Land Rice Valley.” Perhaps the most picturesque area in Bhutan, this valley is home to minority villages with traditional animist beliefs. Learn to cook traditional Bhutanese food from the executive chef. Using traditional utensils like the sume, designed to churn butter, and a tshome, similar to a mortar and pestle, uncover the secrets to the fermented yak cheese and chilli dish known as ema datshi, a yak milk yogurt called dau, Bhutanese buckwheat noodles and momo yak dumplings. BLD | COMO Uma Paro

**Day 8:** Depart Paro. Farewell this enchanting kingdom and transfer privately to the airport for your onward journey.

**JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS**
- Hike to the breathtaking “Tiger’s Nest” Monastery
- Explore museums, chortens and markets in Bhutan’s pretty capital, Thimphu
- Visit the Shrine of the Divine Madman in Punakha
- Cross the spectacular Dochu La Pass offering a panoramic view of Himalayan mountains
- Meet local families and Buddhist monks for an insight into their ancient culture

**ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY**
- Meet local families and Buddhist monks for an insight into their ancient culture
- Have a panoramic view of Himalayan mountains
- Visit the Shrine of the Divine Madman in Punakha
- Hike to the breathtaking “Tiger’s Nest” Monastery

**ANNUAL BUDDHIST ‘TSECHU’ FESTIVALS**
Witness an exciting Tsechu, or Bhutanese religious festival, with its colourful, masked dancers. The Tsechu is an annual traditional festival held in honour of Guru Rinpoche, the saint who brought Buddhism to Bhutan. They take place all year round in temples, monasteries and Dzongs across the country. Colourful and well-choreographed masked dances are performed by monks and village men as local people gather in a spirit of celebration and deep faith. Attending one of these festivals is a fantastic way to experience the ancient living culture of Bhutan.

**PRICE:** FROM $10,675 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $15,995.

**3 NIGHTS 1 ROAD**
NEPAL
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Bouddhanath Stupa, Kathmandu

Two Nepali women spinning wool, Bhaktapur

Durbar Square, Bhaktapur

Phewa Lake, Pokhara

Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, Chitwan National Park
Raw, spiritual and extraordinary: a journey through Nepal is unparalleled. Wind through Kathmandu’s medieval old town and join the flurry of pilgrims circling its most sacred temples. Drive through Chitwan National Park in search of the one-horned rhino and tiger. Journey to Himalayan villages to see mountain life. And inhale the sheer enormity of a majestic landscape that will get your heart racing.

Day 1: Arrive Kathmandu. Welcome to the ever-surprising capital of Nepal and transfer privately to your exquisite hotel. This evening, embark on a culinary journey at Krishnarpan, the Nepali speciality restaurant at Dwarika’s.

Day 2: Kathmandu. Rise early for your first real glimpse of Nepal’s mountain magnificence on a fixed wing mountain flight (additional charge) dominated by the world’s highest mountain, Everest. After breakfast, climb the 400 steps to Swayambhunath, the oldest shrine in the world. Later, head to the temple of Pashupatinath, on the banks of the sacred Bagmati River. Continue to the imposing 14th century Bouddhanath Stupa, one of the holiest of Nepal’s Buddhist sites. Meet a local artisan for a fascinating insight into Buddhism and Thangka paintings. Enjoy sundowners overlooking the stupa. B | Dwarika’s Hotel

Day 3: Kathmandu. Treat your tastebuds to a culinary surprise in a local home and learn the secret behind some favourite Nepalese dishes. Continue to Patan and discover an ancient city of arts and architecture. Visit Durbar Square with its palaces, shrines and temples bustling with flower sellers, pilgrims and orange-clad sadhu and the Patan Museum. B | Dwarika’s Hotel

Day 4: Kathmandu – Dhulikhel. Travel to Dhulikhel, pausing on the way at Bhaktapur, an enchanting 9th century fortified town in the Kathmandu Valley. Find your luxurious sanctuary in Dwarika’s Resort and relax. BD | Dwarika’s Resort

Day 5: Dhulikhel. Wake to spectacular sunrise views over the Himalayan ranges. Embark on a morning hike through rural hamlets, forests and rice paddies to Balthali village. Enjoy true Nepalese hospitality in a village home for lunch. Explore your way this afternoon, with a choice of activities on a walking trail or at a local organic farm. BLD | Dwarika’s Resort

Day 6: Kathmandu – Chitwan National Park. Return to Kathmandu, fly to Bharatpur and take the scenic drive to Chitwan National Park, Nepal’s most famous wildlife reserve. Arrive at your safari lodge beside the Rapti river and take a canoe trip in search of rhino, gharial and exotic birdlife. BLD | Meghuli Serai – A Taj Safari Lodge

Day 7: Chitwan National Park. Embark on a half-day jeep safari accompanied by your own highly-skilled ranger. Get up close to rare animals, such as the endangered one-horned rhino, Bengal tiger, Indian elephant, sloth bear and over 550 varieties of birds. Later this afternoon, head out on a jungle walk. BLD | Meghuli Serai – A Taj Safari Lodge

Day 8: Chitwan National Park – Pokhara. Fly to Pokhara, an enchanting town in the foothills of magnificent Mt Machhapucchre. Visit the nearby Tibetan Refugee Camp and continue to your riverside accommodation. B | The Pavilions Himalayas Resort

Day 9: Pokhara. Rise early for a breathtaking sunrise over the Annapurna range. Rest of the day at leisure. Stroll through Pokhara’s maze of markets and soak up the views of peaceful Lake Phewa at one of the many cafés. B | The Pavilions Himalayas Resort

Day 10: Pokhara – Kathmandu. Fly to Kathmandu where the rest of the day is at leisure. B | Dwarika’s Hotel

Day 11: Depart Kathmandu. Transfer privately to the airport for your onward journey. B

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS
• Soak up the cultural heritage of the Kathmandu Valley and its collection of UNESCO World Heritage Sites
• Enjoy sundowners overlooking the stunning Bouddhanath Stupa
• Drink in the sunrise over the Annapurna range
• Seek out rare wildlife in Chitwan National Park
• Find sanctuary in Nepal’s most luxurious resorts

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY
KATHMANDU EVEREST FLIGHT
Experience a rare, fascinating opportunity to gain a birds-eye view of the legendary Himalayas on a one-hour mountain flight. Taking off from Kathmandu Airport, the flight soars above clouds, offering an incredible vista of some of the world’s highest snow-capped peaks, glaciers and gorges, and of course Everest, a must-see landmark in Nepal, and at 8,848 metres, the highest and most majestic peak in the world.
BHUTAN & NEPAL
LUXURY SMALL
GROUP JOURNEY

Paro Valley, Bhutan
Bhutan's national sport, archery
Punakha Dzong, Bhutan
Bouddhanath Stupa, Kathmandu, Nepal

Durbar Square, Bhaktapur, Nepal

Punakha Dzong, Bhutan

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BHUTAN & NEPAL: HEART OF THE HIMALAYAS

11 DAYS – LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY
BANGKOK – THIMPHU – PARO – KATHMANDU – BANGKOK


PRICE: FROM $12,545 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FROM $3,725.
Price includes internal economy class airfare: From $2,020 per person.
Limited to 18 guests.

Discover Bhutan and Nepal, two Himalayan countries little touched by the passage of time, as you view the stunning “Tiger’s Nest” Monastery, stroll through Kathmandu’s Durbar Square and enjoy a meal in the home of a local Nepali family.

Day 1: Arrive Bangkok, Thailand. Arrive in Bangkok, where you are met and transferred to your airport hotel. Novotel Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport Hotel

Day 2: Bangkok – Thimphu, Bhutan. Fly to Paro, your gateway to Bhutan. Transfer to Thimphu, the capital, and visit the graceful National Memorial Chorten. Later, see the Tashichho Dzong, a 13th century Buddhist monastery and fortress, for an insight into Bhutanese spirituality. This evening, gather for a welcome dinner. BD | Taj Tashi

Day 3: Thimphu. Get an interesting glimpse into rural Bhutan when you visit the Folk Heritage Museum. Next stop is the National Textile museum, and then the National Library, an important repository of ancient Dzongkha and Tibetan texts. BL | Taj Tashi

Day 4: Punakha. Drive over the Dochu La Pass (3,100 metres), with its stunning 360-degree views and admire the colourful prayer flags en route to Punakha. Stop at historic Punakha Dzong, where the first king of modern Bhutan was crowned, and continue to the Temple of the Divine Madman known as a fertility temple. BLD | Taj Tashi

Day 5: Paro. Journey overland to Paro, stopping en route in Chuzom, located at the confluence of the Thimphu and Paro rivers. Once in Paro, view the religious thangka (scroll) paintings and the natural history collection at the conch-shaped National Museum. Continue to Rinpung Dzong, a monastery and fortress along a mountain river. Then, visit local farmers at their farmhouse to better understand their traditional way of life. BLD | Zhiwa Ling Hotel

Day 6: Paro. This morning, you have an opportunity to climb to the world famous Taktshang Monastery (“Tiger’s Nest”), which clings to a cliff 900 metres above the valley. You may hike all or part of the way. Later, visit Kyichu Lhakhang, one of Bhutan’s most sacred shrines. BLD | Zhiwa Ling Hotel

Day 7: Paro – Kathmandu, Nepal. Fly to Kathmandu and ride like a local by rickshaw to Durbar Square. See the House of the Living Goddess (Kumari), built in 1757, and stroll through the colourful bazaar and the bustling old city with its narrow alleyways and temples. Continue to Swayambhunath, one of the most sacred shrines for Tibetan Buddhists. This evening, enjoy a lecture by a Mount Everest summiteer on the trials and triumphs facing climbers. BLD | Dwarika’s Hotel

Day 8: Kathmandu. Explore Patan to see its Durbar Square and the former royal palace. Afterwards, attend a Nepalese cooking class in a local home. Continue to the well-preserved hilltop town of Kirtipur and visit the temple of Bagh Bhairav. BL | Dwarika’s Hotel

Day 9: Kathmandu. Proceed to Bhaktapur, a ninth century town in the Kathmandu Valley celebrated for its glorious architecture, its elegant art, fabulous culture, colourful festivals, traditional dances and the indigenous lifestyle of the Newari. Visit Pashupatinath Temple, a sacred Hindu temple complex on the banks of the Bagmati River, an important cremation site. Continue to Bouddhanath, home to one of the world’s largest Buddhist shrines. Tonight, gather for your farewell dinner. BLD | Dwarika’s Hotel

Days 10–11: Depart Bangkok. On Day 10, either fly to Lhasa to begin your post-tour extension or fly to Bangkok, where you enjoy the use of an executive room, available through Day 11, when you depart on your international flight home. B | Novotel Suvarnabhumi Airport Hotel

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the rich artistic and cultural heritage of Bhutan and Nepal
- Feel the spirit of Bhutan on a pilgrimage hike to the revered “Tiger's Nest” Monastery,
- Learn about the traditions and age-old methods of local farmers on a visit to a farmhouse
- Take a lesson in Nepalese cuisine during a Chef’s Table event in the home of a local resident
- Ride like a local on a rickshaw to Kathmandu’s Durbar Square and Taleju Temple

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY

LHASA POST-TOUR EXTENSION

4 DAYS FROM $3,320 PER PERSON TWIN

Soak up breathtaking views of the Himalaya on the flight to Lhasa. Explore Potala Palace, former home of the Dalai Lama, Jokhang Temple and two of Tibet’s great monasteries in this high altitude capital. Please visit our website for more information.

1300 851 800  |  ABERCROMBIEKENT.COM.AU
This expansive resort sits on a rocky outcrop in a former coconut plantation on the southern coast of Sri Lanka near the old fort town of Tangalle. The golden-hued beach is fringed by coconut palms and overlooks the rolling surf of the Indian Ocean. Rooms are set in tropical garden surrounds with the beach beyond or overlooking the ocean with light, airy spaces and good use of Sri Lankan motifs and colonial style furnishings. All have balconies and some have plunge pools. Bathrooms are luxurious and stocked with signature Anantara amenities. There are six dining venues and an abundance of leisure activities.

For a slice of cosmopolitan city living, Uga Residence offers luxury in a leafy part of Colombo, nestled close to one of the city’s principal Buddhist shrines. Built in the 19th century as the home of a wealthy barrister, it has been meticulously restored to offer 11 spacious, magnificently appointed residential suites. It is set in tropical garden surrounds with the beach beyond or overlooking the ocean with light, airy spaces and good use of Sri Lankan motifs and colonial style furnishings. All have balconies and some have plunge pools. Bathrooms are luxurious and stocked with signature Anantara amenities. There are six dining venues and an abundance of leisure activities.

Our relationships with only the finest properties let you choose your accommodation with confidence. Below are some of our preferred options for Sri Lanka, or please contact your travel specialist to discuss other recommendations.
HAND-PICKED ACCOMMODATION

Our relationships with only the finest properties let you choose your accommodation with confidence. Below are some of our preferred options for Bhutan and Nepal, or please contact your travel specialist to discuss other recommendations.

COMO UMA PARO | PARO, BHUTAN

COMO Uma Paro is an intimate luxury resort hidden away in a delightful and serene forest in the culturally-rich Paro Valley. Blending local artisanship with COMO’s contemporary style, the resort features nine private, cottage-sized villas scattered throughout the resort, and 20 excellently appointed rooms in the large main building. The resort boasts the exceptional COMO Shambhala Retreat (including two traditional Bhutanese hot stone bath rooms, a gym and pool), the yurt-shaped Bukhari restaurant with its delectable Indian menu, in addition to local Bhutanese cuisine, and the elegant Uma Bar for all-day dining.

TAJ TASHI | THIMPHU, BHUTAN

Nestled in the heart of the stunningly picturesque Thimphu Valley is magnificent Taj Tashi. Here, Dzong architecture and modern luxury blend to create a unique hotel experience that reflects its spellbinding surrounds. Hand-drawn Buddhist murals and breathtaking views surprise at every turn. There are 66 elegant guestrooms and suites providing the perfect sanctuary in which to relax during your stay. Meet new friends over drinks in Ara bar and dine at one of the hotel’s four restaurants. After a day filled with adventures, the Jiva Spa offers more ways to relax – don’t leave without trying the Bhutanese Hot Stone Bath.

DWARIKA’S HOTEL | KATHMANDU, NEPAL

Dwarika’s Hotel is a fine example of Nepali architecture with intricate wood and terracotta work produced by the finest craftsmen in the country. Appreciation of each handmade brick, and every piece of original wood is what makes this hotel so special and unique. If you are an avid foodie, the restaurants here will not disappoint, most of the ingredients come from the hotel’s organic farm. Dine in style and enjoy meals reminiscent of ritual feasts up to 22 courses. We recommend a visit to the library at the hotel, full of interesting books and a splendid place to sit back and relax after an exhilarating day taking in vibrant Kathmandu.

TAJ MEGHAULI SERAI | CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK, NEPAL

Situated on the banks of the River Rapti in the renowned Chitwan National Park, Meghauli Serai is a luxury haven in the wilderness. Contemporary Meghauli rooms come with a balcony while the more spacious Rapti Villas boast private plunge pools, and both offer great views of the river. Explore the national park on jeep safaris, walking trails or canoe trips. Using organic farm fresh ingredients, dining options include local style barbeques, in-room dining and also private outdoor dining experiences. When not out on safari, relax by the infinity swimming pool, or spend time in the private machan over the river, and let the wildlife come to you.
THE ORIENT

Mysterious and exotic, the countries of the Far East hold great allure and fascination. The cultured traveller is at home here discovering age-old secrets, remarkable landscapes and fascinating experiences. From China, with its myriad ancient monuments, and untamed Mongolia to the charming delights of Myanmar, the culinary appeal of Vietnam, the unspoiled attractions of Laos, tranquil Thailand and intriguing Japan, there are luxury adventures around every corner, supported by elegant and sophisticated hotels.

Travelling with A&K throughout the Orient, you can expect an affable face to meet you at every turn, friendly and efficient service at your chosen hotels, the most suitable rooms booked, the finest transport, worrisome extras taken care of, restaurant reservations made and someone on call 24/7.

WHEN TO GO

Weather patterns throughout Asia are varied. In the tropics of southeast Asia there is little seasonal temperature variation (average daily highs in the 30’s) with monsoon season from May to November. A vast country like China has enormous variations but, in general, spring (April – May) and autumn (September – October) are best. In Japan, late spring (March – May) and late autumn (September – November) are generally ideal times to visit. Plan to travel to Central Asia during spring and autumn (April – May and September) when the days are warm and dry. Temperatures from November to March are cold, while summer can be uncomfortably hot.

A&K ADVANTAGES & INCLUSIONS

Among the many inclusions that make an A&K Private Journey in this part of the world unique:

• Your own dedicated A&K Travel Specialist who will work with you before you travel to thoroughly understand your interests and requirements, and either recommend a ready-to-book A&K itinerary from this brochure, every one of which has been designed with passion, insight and attention to detail incorporating the very best, not just the best-known, options and experiences in the destination, or create a bespoke itinerary especially for you

• Expert local guides who will share their personal insights into the destination, enable unique local encounters and ensure you take away lifelong memories

• A perfectly-balanced journey that flows seamlessly from start to finish, with opportunities for self-discovery along the way and the ability to enjoy flexibility during your stay and set your own pace

• Hand-picked accommodation from the very best high-end luxury hotels to intimate boutique inns and independently-owned lodgings

• Round-the-clock support in destination through A&K’s extensive network of travel experts, local offices and associates

Every A&K private journey also includes:

• A personal Meet & Greet on arrival at each destination

• Private transfers and transport in your own luxury vehicle with a driver, bottled water and hand towels

• All breakfasts and many other meals (as specified in the itinerary)

• Entrance fees for all sightseeing and included activities.
THE ORIENT MULTI-COUNTRY

Despite covering a vast area, the Orient’s interconnectivity means it is simple to combine multiple countries in one journey. Here is some inspiration on how it can be done. To handcraft your own luxury journey, talk to your travel agent or contact Abercrombie & Kent.

LAOS, VIETNAM & CAMBODIA
Discover authentic Indochina when you combine three of Southeast Asia’s most intriguing destinations. There are World Heritage wonders aplenty in Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia including former royal capital Luang Prabang, atmospheric Hoi An and the magnificent temples of Angkor. Take in the white sand beaches and limestone outcrops of Lan Ha Bay, imperial Hue and the vibrant food and art scene in Ho Chi Minh City on an unforgettable three-week adventure.

MYANMAR & THAILAND
Combine two enchanting neighbouring destinations on a two-week adventure from the Golden Land, Myanmar, to Thailand. Glittering temples abound, rich handicraft traditions, vibrant markets and flavoursome cuisine. Float down the Irrawaddy River aboard a boutique river cruiser past timeless villages and golden stupas. Soak up the colonial architecture of Yangon and the revered monasteries of Mandalay. Get lost amidst Bangkok’s floating markets, find serenity in Buddhist temples and meander down the leafy boulevards of Chiang Mai.

THAILAND, LAOS & CAMBODIA
From gilded temples to bamboo jungles, embark on a mystical journey through Thailand, Laos and Cambodia. Experience canals and floating markets in the Thai capital, adventure and glamping in the northern jungle and float down the Mekong in your own luxury river vessel. Interact with majestic elephants. Unwind in luxury tents. See where centuries-old traditions survive. Discover the colonial romance and glittering temples of Luang Prabang and the beautiful Khmer temples at Siem Reap.

SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA & THAILAND
Wind your way through the heart of southeast Asia on a splendid rail journey deep into the mesmerising landscapes of Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia. Step back in time to the golden age of rail travel aboard Eastern & Oriental Express (page 84) where rich fabrics, rattan furniture, freshly pressed linen and antique fittings create an atmosphere of elegance. Let your personal steward attend to every need as you gaze at the everchanging landscapes between Singapore and Bangkok making a stop at the Bridge over the River Kwai and Kanchanaburi.
Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar are inextricably linked geographically, climatically and spiritually. Yet each has its own particular identity, culture and history. Dusty relics and vast monuments from powerful ancient civilisations are scattered across the Indochinese Peninsula, while more recent colonial influences define many of the major cities. Tropical landscapes, steamy jungles, fast-flowing rivers and golden beaches are the backdrop for exhilarating temple tours, handicraft appreciation, spiced up culinary experiences and many of the world’s finest hotels and cruises.

UNMISSABLE SOUTHEAST ASIA

TEMPLES OF ANGKOR, CAMBODIA
Ramble through the ancient ruins of the mighty Khmer civilisation, whose 900-year-old temples and structures are some of the most remarkable architectural and artistic accomplishments from the ancient world. Marvel at Angkor Wat, the jungle temple of Ta Prohm and the creative genius of the Bayon.

IRRAWADDY RIVER, MYANMAR
The timeless Irrawaddy River, which rises in the Himalaya and flows more than 2,000 kilometres to the Indian Ocean, reveals a life unchanged over centuries. Villages and cities along the banks shelter temples, pagodas and monasteries, and in the rural areas bullock carts and elephants are sighted in the fields. Boutique cruise ship, Sanctuary Ananda, operates a range of cruises along the river (see page 86).

HOI AN, VIETNAM
This charming historic waterside town, a major south-east Asian trading post in the 16th and 17th centuries, is a living museum and UNESCO World Heritage site. Roam the cobbled streets, peruse lively market stalls, admire the Japanese covered bridge and unlock culinary secrets at a cooking school.
VIETNAM
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Lantern shop, Old Town, Hoi An
Ginger Cruise, Lan Ha Bay

Weaving traditional bamboo fish traps

Thu Bon River bridge, Hoi An
Entrance to the Citadel, Hue
HIGHLIGHTS OF VIETNAM

13 DAYS - PRIVATE JOURNEY

HANOI - LAN HA BAY - HOI AN - HUE - HO CHI MINH CITY

PRICE: FROM $10,615 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $19,545.

Experience the irresistible allure of Vietnam on this journey from north to south. Delve into the surprises of sophisticated French colonial cities and quaint heritage towns, tasting true Vietnam at every turn. Venture through emerald waters to the hidden bays and remote islands of Lan Ha Bay. And encounter the people, culture and cuisine that together make this country so vibrant.

Day 1: Arrive Hanoi. Transfer to your iconic hotel in the Vietnamese capital. Sofitel Legend Metropole

Day 2: Hanoi. Begin your enthralling tour at Ho Chi Minh’s mausoleum. Linger at the iconic One Pillar Pagoda and stroll through the Temple of Literature, Vietnam’s first university. Meet a celebrated Vietnamese performance artist and painter for a fascinating artistic insight. BL | Sofitel Legend Metropole


Day 4: Hanoi – Lan Ha Bay. Journey to Lan Ha Bay. Board your boutique wooden junk and drift over the emerald waters through the area’s distinctive limestone formations. Step ashore to meet local islanders, and back on board try your hand in the kitchen. BLD | Ginger

Day 5: Lan Ha Bay – Hoi An. Rise early for Tai Chi on the deck then take to a small boat or kayak for a morning outing. Later, disembark and transfer to the airport. Fly to Danang and transfer to Hoi An. B | Four Seasons Resort The Nam Hai

Day 6: Hoi An. Morning at leisure. Afternoon walking tour of this charming historic town. Inhale the aromas and flavours of market stalls, and marvel at the 400-year-old Japanese covered bridge. Then join a local master to learn the traditional art of lantern making. B | Four Seasons Resort The Nam Hai

Day 7: Hoi An. Unlock the secrets of time-honoured recipes in a half-day culinary masterclass. BL | Four Seasons Resort The Nam Hai

Day 8: Hoi An – Hue. Journey overland to Hue, the former Imperial capital of Vietnam, visiting the Cham Museum en route. Step inside one of Hue’s beautiful garden houses for a private lunch. Later, take in the Tomb of Khai Dinh. BL | La Residence Hotel & Spa

Day 9: Hue. Lose yourself amongst the fascinating buildings of the imperial citadel and drive to the serene tomb of Tu Duc and the Tomb of Minh Mang. A final stop at the lively Dong Ba Market. BL | La Residence Hotel & Spa

Day 10: Hue – Ho Chi Minh City. Fly to Ho Chi Minh City. This evening, see and taste the city from the back of a vintage Vespa. Weave through buzzing streets and savour the sizzling street food. B | Park Hyatt Saigon

Day 11: Ho Chi Minh City. Delve into the Cu Chi Tunnels for an unrivalled wartime insight. After lunch, tour this ever-vibrant city. Visit the Reunification Hall. Pause at the Notre Dame Cathedral and Post Office and finish at Ben Thanh Market. BL | Park Hyatt Saigon

Day 12: Design Your Day Ho Chi Minh City. Discover Saigon your way. Take a Mekong Delta cruise exploring villages and meeting local artisans. Or, learn about the development of Vietnamese jewellery on a tour of markets and workshops. Or, dive into city life on a cyclo and Vespa tour through the bustling city streets ending with the perfect pho. B | Park Hyatt Saigon

Day 13: Depart Ho Chi Minh City. Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. B

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

• Uncover over 1,000 years of history wonderfully preserved in Hanoi.
• Venture into tranquil Lan Ha Bay on a luxury wooden junk.
• Seek out chic boutiques, antiques and art in charming Hoi An.
• Enjoy traditional Vietnamese hospitality in a 19th century Hue residence.
• Experience the food scene of Ho Chi Minh City on the back of a vintage Vespa.

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY

HANOI VESPA BY NIGHT

Discover the hidden charms of Hanoi as you weave through a maze of busy streets and narrow passageways on the back of a Vespa. Venture beyond the typical tourist trail to discover seldom-visited residential neighbourhoods, secret cafés, markets and into the homes of local families to catch a rare and authentic glimpse of local life. Savour a range of classic Vietnamese street food, enjoy drinks along the way and finish up in an atmospheric jazz club for a night to remember.
VIETNAM & CAMBODIA
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Floating market, Vietnam

Phum Baitang, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Floating village, Cambodia

Aqua Mekong Suite

Monk exploring Ta Prohm temple, Cambodia
JOURNEY ON THE MEKONG

14 DAYS – PRIVATE JOURNEY

HO CHI MINH CITY – MEKONG RIVER – SIEM REAP

PRICE: FROM $18,060 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $24,280.

Explore the jewels of southern Vietnam and Cambodia with an unparalleled adventure on the mighty Mekong. Let luxury cruiser Aqua Mekong become your platform for discovery. Step ashore to meet Khmer farmers, Buddhist monks and talented artisans. Explore the floating villages of Tonle Sap, meditate with monks, and step back in time at enchanting Angkor Wat.

Day 1: Arrive Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Welcome to Saigon. Park Hyatt Saigon

Day 2: Ho Chi Minh City. Take a locals-only tour of vibrant Chinatown and see artisans creating temple statues. Pause at the serene Quan Am pagoda and visit the country’s first traditional medicine museum. Continue to the Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral and Central Post Office. BL | Park Hyatt Saigon

Day 3: Ho Chi Minh City – My Tho. Travel to My Tho and board Aqua Mekong. Settle into your floating retreat. BD | Aqua Mekong

Days 4–9: Mekong River. On this week-long cruise, share the many mysteries and wonders that lie along the mighty Mekong and Tonle Sap Rivers, and discover the diverse cultures that thrive there. Meet Khmer farmers, Buddhist monks and innovative stallholders in kaleidoscopic wet markets. Discover traditional weavers and the house of Marguerite Duras’ real life lover Léo. Float past fish farms and fields of water hyacinth. Sample exotic fruits and enjoy a traditional folk performance. Explore small villages by bike and ride a rickshaw. Experience traditional Khmer massage and learn to cook locally inspired dishes. Explore the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, and the floating villages of Tonle Sap. BLD | Aqua Mekong

Day 10: Tonle Sap – Siem Reap, Cambodia. Explore the Prek Toal Core Bird Reserve before disembarking in Siem Reap – gateway to the temples of Angkor. This evening, a culinary adventure by tuk tuk, dining at three restaurants led by the country’s best chefs. BD | Phum Baitang

Day 11: Siem Reap. Watch the sky explode with colour over legendary Angkor Wat – one of the final vestiges of the Khmer Empire and a worthy UNESCO World Heritage Site. Climb through snake-like roots that engulf the temple of Ta Prohm to discover an intriguing history. The afternoon is at leisure before an evening performance at Phare Ponleu Selpak, Cambodia’s leading circus, theatre and performing arts organisation supporting social enterprise. B | Phum Baitang

Day 12: Siem Reap. A morning to explore the former capital of the Khmer Empire, Angkor Thom. Discover the glorious Bayon in the heart of the ancient city. Stop awhile at the sanctuary of Baphuon, the impressive Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King. Afternoon at leisure. B | Phum Baitang

Day 13: Siem Reap. Discover Siem Reap’s creative vibe with your local guide and arts curator, Robina Hanley. Visit the Golden Silk Farm to witness the time-honoured process of cultivating silk worms to create delicate fabrics. Continue to Theam’s House and Gallery, where Cambodia’s rich artistic heritage comes to life through a collection of recovered artefacts and handmade pieces. Step inside the studio of internationally acclaimed fashion designer Eric Raisina, whose modern designs are heavily inspired by Cambodia’s ancient culture and crafts. Recharge over coffee in the peaceful city-centre enclave of Kandal Village, where colonial buildings now house upscale interior design shops and art galleries. Then, head to One Eleven Gallery to peruse contemporary works by international artists. Return to your hotel to relax and explore some more. B | Phum Baitang

Day 14: Depart Siem Reap. Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. B

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

• Unpeel layers of history in Ho Chi Minh City
• Drift along the mighty Mekong aboard luxury vessel Aqua Mekong
• Marvel at floating temples, schools, houses and shops on Tonle Sap Lake
• Indulge in a Khmer fine dining tour by tuk tuk

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY

HERITAGE LUANG PRABANG – PRIVATE EXTENSION

4 DAYS FROM $4,550 PER PERSON TWIN

The historic former royal capital of Laos will leave you spellbound. Discover an enchanting mix of tranquil Buddhist temples, French colonial architecture and towering palms in this UNESCO World Heritage site. Meet the fascinating people of Laos and discover the stories behind their age-old customs and crafts. Please visit our website for more information.

AKP supported projects:
Cambodia Clean Water Project & Siem Reap Schools Programme
VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, LAOS & THAILAND
LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

Prayer time, Wat Xieng Thong, Luang Prabang, Laos
Street market, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Angkor Wat, Cambodia
Grand Palace and Wat Phra Keaw, Bangkok, Thailand
Orchid, Halong Bay, Vietnam
This breathtaking journey takes in Southeast Asia’s most intriguing destinations and its flavoursome cuisine. Admire the breathtaking scenery of Halong Bay, the tree-lined boulevards of Hanoi and vibrant Saigon. Marvel at the ancient temples of Angkor and sleepy Luang Prabang. End up in Bangkok and soak up the river views from your hotel.

**Day 1: Arrive Hanoi, Vietnam.** Arrive into Vietnam’s cultured capital and transfer to your iconic hotel. Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi

**Day 2: Hanoi.** Visit the home of Ho Chi Minh, the One Pillar Pagoda and the infamous “Hanoi Hilton”. Ride like a local by cyclo through the Old Quarter before your welcome dinner. BLD | Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi

**Day 3: Hanoi – Halong Bay.** Travel to Hai Phong, to board luxury vessel ‘Orchid’ Cruise through the striking limestone landscape of Halong Bay. Stroll on a remote beach and admire the sunset before dinner on board. BLD | Orchid

**Day 4: Halong Bay – Ho Chi Minh City.** Sunrise tai chi before a cave visit and brunch on board. Disembark for an orientation tour of Hai Phong, visiting Du Hang Pagoda and the Navy Museum. Fly south to Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon. BL | InterContinental Saigon Hotel

**Day 5: Ho Chi Minh City.** Today, explore Saigon’s colonial legacy, including the Reunification Palace, the Central Post Office, the Cathedral of Notre Dame and the Saigon Opera House. After lunch, visit the War Remnants Museum and stroll through Ben Thanh Market. Tonight, dine at a local culinary hot spot. BLD | InterContinental Saigon Hotel

**Day 6: Ho Chi Minh City.** Travel into the countryside to explore the expansive Cu Chi Tunnel network. Talk with a former Vietcong soldier and, if you like, crawl through the tunnels once traversed by Vietcong guerrillas. BL | InterContinental Saigon Hotel

**Day 7: Ho Chi Minh City – Siem Reap, Cambodia.** Fly to Siem Reap, the town nearest to the Angkor temples. Begin your exploration at Angkor Thom, the last capital of the Khmer kingdom, and continue to the Bayon Temple. BLD | Belmond La Résidence d’Angkor

**Day 8: Siem Reap.** Rise early to see the sun rise over mystical Angkor Wat. After a morning at leisure, discover the stunning ruins of Ta Prohm, where the roots of great trees spill over the roof of this iconic stone temple. Enjoy a Scenic Sundowner on a gondola at Angkor Thom. B | Belmond La Résidence d’Angkor

**Day 9: Siem Reap – Luang Prabang, Laos.** Today, explore the less-visited Banteay Srei temple and learn about the essential well-building work of A&K Philanthropy’s Cambodia Clean Water Project. After lunch, visit the Angkor National Museum before flying to Luang Prabang. BL | Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao

**Day 10: Luang Prabang.** Step back in time and join a village baci ceremony, before visiting Wat Xieng Thong, a Buddhist Temple noted for its “Tree of Life” mosaic. After lunch, stop at the Traditional Arts & Ethnology Centre and later stroll through the vibrant night market. BLD | Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao

**Day 11: Luang Prabang – Bangkok, Thailand.** Rise early to witness monks in their saffron robes collecting alms on the city streets. Later, visit the National Museum, once a royal palace, and a silk weaving centre before flying to Bangkok. BL | The Peninsula Bangkok

**Day 12: Bangkok.** Visit the Grand Palace and green-jade Emerald Buddha. Discover Wat Pho temple, with its massive, gilded Reclining Buddha, and then enjoy splendid views of Wat Arun on a river cruise. Tonight, a special farewell dinner. BD | The Peninsula Bangkok

**Day 13: Depart Bangkok.** Transfer to the airport for onward flight. B

**JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS**

- Explore the stunning ruins of Angkor with your expert local guide.
- Gliding through the limestone islands of Halong Bay on a relaxing overnight cruise.
- Step back in time as you explore tranquil Luang Prabang and its many temples.
- Delve into Vietnam’s recent history, descending into the Cu Chi Tunnels near Ho Chi Minh City.
- Experience the vibrancy and colour of café culture in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

**ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY**

**MYANMAR POST-TOUR EXTENSION**

6 DAYS FROM $4,750 PER PERSON TWIN

Explore timeless Myanmar. Visit the reclining Buddha and Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, meander through temple ruins on a horse and cart, float serenely over the stupas of Bagan in a hot air balloon, and drift among the villages and gardens of Inle Lake. Please visit our website for more information.

**AKP supported project:**
Cambodia Clean Water Project
CAMBODIA
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Khmer cuisine
Exploring the grounds of Angkor Wat

Sunset over moat surrounding Angkor Wat

Six Senses Koh Krabey
Apsara greeting, Phnom Penh
WONDERS OF CAMBODIA

10 DAYS – PRIVATE JOURNEY
PHNOM PENH – SIEM REAP – SIHANOUKVILLE – PHNOM PENH

PRICE: FROM $6,390 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $11,260.

Experience an explosion of colour, flavour and artistic talent in Cambodia. Unpeel the intriguing layers of Phnom Penh. Spark your creativity in dynamic Siem Reap. Marvel at intricate Angkor temples. And savour the tranquility of Cambodia’s idyllic coastline.

Day 1: Arrive Phnom Penh. Welcome to Phnom Penh, a city alive with glistening temples, backstreet bars and an epic history. Ramble along tree-lined boulevards to the National Museum of Khmer Art and Archaeology, the Royal Palace and the Silver Pagoda. Rosewood Phnom Penh Hotel

Day 2: Phnom Penh. Uncover the secrets of this intriguing city. Let linguist and anthropologist Dr Jean-Michel Filippi share his passion and expertise as you unpeel the layers of the city. Later, a visit to the thought-provoking Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum. BL | Rosewood Phnom Penh Hotel

Day 3: Phnom Penh – Siem Reap. A short flight to Siem Reap, gateway to the Angkor temple complex and a lively hub of creativity. This evening, a culinary adventure by tuk tuk introduces three Khmer restaurants led by the country’s best chefs. BD | Phum Baitang

Day 4: Siem Reap. Watch the sky explode with colour over legendary Angkor Wat – one of the final vestiges of the Khmer Empire and a worthy UNESCO World Heritage Site. Climb through snake-like roots that engulf the temple of Ta Prohm to discover an intriguing history. The afternoon is at leisure before an evening performance at Phare Ponleu Selpak, Cambodia’s leading circus, theatre and evening performance at Phare Ponleu Selpak, Cambodia’s leading circus, theatre and community. At the end of each day, recline in natural’s theatre come to life. Please visit our website for more information.

Day 6: Siem Reap. Discover Siem Reap’s creative vibe with your local guide and arts curator, Robina Hanley. Visit the Golden Silk Farm to witness the time-honoured process of cultivating silk worms to create delicate fabrics. Continue to Theam’s House and Gallery, where Cambodia’s rich artistic heritage comes to life. Step inside the studio of internationally acclaimed fashion designer Eric Raisina, whose modern designs are heavily inspired by Cambodia’s ancient culture and crafts. Recharge with coffee and head to One Eleven Gallery to peruse contemporary works by international artists. B | Phum Baitang

Day 7: Siem Reap – Sihanoukville. Transfer to Siem Reap airport for your onward flight to the coastal city of Sihanoukville. Board your boat for the short ride to the island of Krabey and the Six Senses resort. Settle into your pool villa set around the naturally-landscaped 30-acre island. B | Six Senses Koh Krabey

Days 8–9: Sihanoukville. Enjoy the resort, your way. Try your hand at creating Indochine-inspired cuisine in a cooking masterclass. Seek out underwater treasures while snorkelling. Kayak into secret coves. Or simply indulge in the serenity of your own plunge pool and deck. Later, unwind with Cambodian healing treatments in the Six Senses Spa. As night falls, don’t miss the chance to discover the universe in the sky observatory (resort activities at additional cost). B | Six Senses Koh Krabey

Day 10: Sihanoukville – Phnom Penh. Return by boat and road to Phnom Penh Airport for your onward flight. B

Day 5: Siem Reap. A morning to explore the former capital of the Khmer Empire, Angkor Thom. Discover the glorious Bayon in the heart of the ancient city. Stop awhile at the sanctuary of Baphuon, the impressive Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King. Afternoon at leisure. B | Phum Baitang

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS
• Explore unseen Phnom Penh with a resident linguist and anthropologist
• Watch the day dawn over Angkor Wat
• Witness the best of Cambodian dance and acrobatics
• See where tradition meets modern craftsmanship on a private tour of Siem Reap’s best boutiques, ateliers and galleries
• Savour the tranquility and comforts of Six Senses Krabey Island

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY

WILD CAMBODIA – PRIVATE EXTENSION
4 DAYS FROM $5,125 PER PERSON TWIN
Welcome to the last great wilderness of Southeast Asia. Here, in the middle of the untamed jungle, you’ll find an inimitable luxury tented camp experience. Let it become your platform for discovery. Venture into the heart of the emerald-green jungle, get up close to rare animals, and meet isolated indigenous communities. At the end of each day, recline in your sumptuous tent beside the river and watch nature’s theatre come to life. Please visit our website for more information.

AKP supported projects:
Cambodia Clean Water Project & Siem Reap Schools Program

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MYANMAR
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Sanctuary Ananda Ancient pagodas, Bagan
U Bein Bridge, Amarapura
Shwedagon Pagoda, Yangon
Silk weaving, Inle Lake

1300 851 800  |  ABERCROMBIEKENT.COM.AU
MYANMAR IN STYLE
12 DAYS – PRIVATE JOURNEY
YANGON – MANDALAY – IRRAWADDY RIVER – BAGAN – INLE LAKE – YANGON

PRICE: FROM $6,030 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $9,900.

Unravel the mysteries of Myanmar in this journey through an enchanting land almost untouched by the 21st century. Venture into the heart of the country on a four-night luxury cruise along the Irrawaddy. Witness an ever-changing landscape of timeless villages and glittering stupas, experience the daily rhythms along the river and get to know some of the most endearing people in the world.

Day 1: Arrive YANGON. Welcome to YANGON and settle into your historic hotel. The Strand Hotel

Day 2: YANGON. Discover the wonders of this city once known as the “Queen of the East”. Venture into the intriguing hollow stupa at Botataung Pagoda. Experience a traditional fortune reading and head downtown to discover the city’s colonial architecture and bustling market. Marvel at the Reclining Buddha Pagoda and finally the majestic Shwedagon Pagoda, whose gold stupa towers above the city. BL | The Strand Hotel

Day 3: YANGON – MANDALAY. Fly to Mandalay. Board Sanctuary Ananda and discover the highlights of Mandalay. Visit Mahamuni Pagoda, the beautiful teak Shwenandaw Monastery, the only palace building to survive World War II bombings, and Kuthodaw Pagoda. Explore the pagoda-sprinkled Sagaing Hill, an important religious centre. Meet novice monks at a monastic school and acquire a deeper understanding of Buddhism. Later, drink in breathtaking views from the top of the Soon U Ponya Shin Pagoda. Stop at Amarapura and listen to the weaving looms at work. Stop awhile at U Bein Bridge, believed to be the longest teak bridge in the world, for sunset. BLD | Sanctuary Ananda

Days 4–6: Cruising the Irrawaddy. Spend the next three days afloat exploring the river highlights. Stop at the quaint village of Sin Kyun and learn about the positive impact being made by Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy. Take in the village of Mingun and its massive unfinished pagoda. Admire the temple plain of Bagan, dotted with more than 2,000 pagodas and stupas. Visit vibrant local markets, artisan workshops and the great golden Shwezigon Pagoda. While the ship cruises, take part in onboard longyi tying workshops, cooking demonstrations and nightly sundowners, or simply relax by the pool and indulge in a spa treatment. BLD | Sanctuary Ananda

Day 7: Bagan. Leave the ship behind and journey to the village of Myinkaba to visit a lacquerware workshop for a masterclass. BL | Aureum Palace Hotel

Day 8: Bagan – INLE LAKE. Fly to Heho and check into your boutique hotel on the edge of Inle Lake. See the unique leg-rowing fishermen, farmers at work and stilt villages. Visit the Phaung-Daw-U Pagoda and the wooden Nga Pe Chaung Monastery. BL | Villa Inle Resort

Day 9: INLE LAKE. Start your day with a visit to the Fifth Day Market, the lively rotating market that moves around the towns by boat. Browse handicrafts and fresh produce and admire the vibrant dress of different hill tribes. See why Inle Lake is renowned for its silk weaving, and cruise to Indein for a stroll through the village and up to old Shwe Inn Dein, an impressive collection of ancient Shan style stupas. BL | Villa Inle Resort

Day 10: INLE LAKE. A day at leisure. You can choose to venture north to the Aythaya Vineyard, Myanmar’s first and most notable vineyard. Sample some of the vineyard’s finest wines surrounded by the beautiful estate with countless rows of grapes nestled high on the mountainside (additional charge). BD | Villa Inle Resort

Day 11: INLE LAKE – YANGON. Return flight to YANGON with a guide and driver at your disposal for private exploration and shopping. BL | Belmond Governor’s Residence

Day 12: Depart YANGON. Transfer to the airport, where your journey ends.

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS
• Marvel at YANGON’s gleaming architectural masterpiece, Shwedagon Pagoda
• Journey along the mighty Irrawaddy River on a luxury 4-night cruise
• Meet the friendly people of Myanmar in stilted towns, workshops and markets
• Witness the sunset over Bagan’s pagoda-sprinkled plain
• Barter with colourful hill tribes in the vibrant Fifth Day Market

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY
WINE TASTING AT AYTHAYA VINEYARD
Take a scenic drive north of Inle Lake to visit Aythaya Vineyard, the first vineyard in Myanmar and among the country’s most notable wineries. The locally-grown grapes are cultivated from vines imported from some of the best winegrowing regions in France, Spain, Italy and Germany. Enjoy a tasting of some of the vineyard’s finest wines while viewing the beautiful estate and its countless rows of grapes nestled high up on the mountainside.

AKP supported project: Sin Kyun Village Project
MYANMAR
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Inle Lake

Traditional lacquerware production

Novice monks

Exploring the temple plain of Bagan

Kuthodaw Pagoda, Mandalay
MYANMAR: INSIDE THE GOLDEN LAND

9 DAYS – PRIVATE JOURNEY
YANGON – BAGAN – MANDALAY – INLE LAKE – YANGON

PRICE: FROM $4,990 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $8,240.

Immerse yourself in the living history of Myanmar, an enchanting land where the 21st century has barely intruded. Marvel at a thousand temples scattered across the countryside in Bagan. Get lost amongst the intricate teak temples, pagodas and stupas. Experience the unique leg-rowing fisherman and stilted villages of Inle Lake. And spend time getting to know some of the most endearing people you will meet anywhere in the world.

Day 1: Arrive Yangon. A warm A&K welcome to Myanmar. This evening, visit the gleaming Shwedagon Pagoda with its gold stupa that rises 98 metres above the city. Belmond Governor’s Residence

Day 2: Yangon – Bagan. Fly to Bagan and venture with your guide to a vibrant market. Take in Bagan’s most important pagodas and temples including Shwezigon, the 13th century Kubyaukgyi Temple and its frescoes, and the soaring Htilominlo Temple. Finally, ride a horse and cart to the 11th century Ananda Temple. Next, step inside a lacquerware workshop for a hands-on masterclass and marvel at a dramatic soaring Htilominlo Temple. Finally, ride a horse and cart to the 11th century Ananda Temple. Next, step inside a lacquerware workshop for a hands-on masterclass and marvel at a dramatic sunset over the temple-dotted plains. BL | Aureum Palace Hotel

Day 3: Bagan. Journey to the village of Min Nan Thu, passing many temples along the way. Stop at Nandamanya Temple to discover its vivid murals, before continuing to a weaving workshop and a brick-making factory. Explore the village by bike, visiting a local farmer’s house to see how peanut oil is produced and watch local women spinning thread. Continue to the captivating village of Myinkaba and admire the local handicrafts. Return to Bagan and visit Manuha and Nanpaya Temples. An evening scenic sunset cruise on the majestic Irrawaddy River. BL | Aureum Palace Hotel

Day 4: Bagan – Mandalay. Fly to Mandalay. Pause at Amarapura to see U Bein Bridge, the longest teak bridge in the world, and a silk weaving workshop. Next, visit one of the country’s most revered Buddhist places of worship, Mahamuni Paya and see the large Pali Buddha statue. Later, roam Shwenandaw Monastery, a remnant of the ancient Mandalay Palace. Continue to Kuthodaw Pagoda and Mandalay Hill for rewarding views. Later, observe young monks chanting at Shwekyin Kyaung Monastery and be blessed. BL | Rupar Mandalar Resort

Day 5: Mandalay. Admire local crafts today starting at a gold leaf workshop, then a look at traditional bronze casting. An afternoon cruise upstream to Mingun, enjoying a wonderful glimpse into daily life along the Irrawaddy River. Ride an ox-cart to the Mingun Bell, said to be the world’s largest, and onwards to Myatheindan Pagoda. BL | Rupar Mandalar Resort

Day 6: Mandalay – Inle Lake. Fly to Heho and lose yourself in the magic of Inle Lake, surrounded by stilt villages where traditional fishermen practice a unique method of leg-rowing. Cruise to Indein and wander through the village watching daily life unfold. Climb up a beautiful stairway lined with wooden columns to an impressive collection of ancient Shan style stupas. BL | Aureum Palace Resort & Spa

Day 7: Inle Lake. Enjoy a morning exploring at your own pace. After lunch, visit the stilted village of Inn Paw Khon and witness unique ikat-style silk weaving. Visit a blacksmith where skilled experts shape metals with hammer and anvil. Take a tour of a ‘cheroot’ factory and try your hand at making a Burmese cigar, before stopping at a boat builder’s workshop to see how the essential local transportation is produced by hand. B | Aureum Palace Resort & Spa

Day 8: Inle Lake – Yangon. Return flight to Yangon and explore your way. Choose a visit to Scott Market to immerse yourself in local handicrafts, jewellery and antiques; or learn the art of meditation with one of the country’s leading practitioners; or spark your creativity inside a local artist’s studio. B | Belmond Governor’s Residence

Day 9: Depart Yangon. Transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

• View the dazzling and lively Shwedagon Pagoda at dusk
• Pedal around the village of Min Nan Thu and meet the locals
• Learn the age-old crafts of lacquerware, cigar making and silk weaving
• Be mesmerised by the chanting of young monks during a magical evening at Shwekyin Kyaung Monastery
• Cruise along the majestic Irrawaddy River at sunset

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY

• Be fascinated by the unique way of life at the villages of Min Nan Thu
• Discover the raw beauty of Myanmar’s landscape via a Myanmar helicopter tour
• Experience the culture and cuisine of Myanmar with a cooking class

BALLOON RIDE OVER BAGAN
Rise early for an enchanting sunrise experience that takes you up into the skies of Bagan in a hot air balloon. As you float higher and higher above the ground, the true magnitude of the “Golden Land” is revealed and you can see impressive views of the Ayeyarwady River along with countless pagodas and temples stretching far across the horizon. Ballooning is considered an essential Bagan experience as the vast landscape is best appreciated from above.

1300 851 800 | ABERCROMBIEKENT.COM.AU
THAILAND & LAOS
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Mekong River, Laos

Kuang Si waterfall, Luang Prabang, Laos

Mekong Kingdoms’ Gypsy

Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle, Thailand

Wat Xieng Thong, Luang Prabang, Laos
THAILAND & LAOS:
NORTHERN KINGDOMS

8 DAYS – PRIVATE JOURNEY

CHIANG RAI – MEKONG RIVER – LUANG PRABANG

PRICE: FROM $18,050 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $33,320.

From gilded temples to bamboo jungles, embark on a mystical journey through the northern kingdoms of Thailand and Laos. Experience a place of mesmerising natural beauty tucked away in the mountains. Interact with majestic elephants. Unwind in luxury tents. See where centuries-old traditions survive. Discover the colonial romance and glittering temples of Luang Prabang. And travel the Mekong in the most intimate way possible.

Day 1: Arrive Chiang Rai, Thailand.
Welcome to the Golden Triangle. Arrive into camp by boat. Settle into your sumptuous tent and immerse yourself in the enchanting jungle landscape. Later, take advantage of a 90-minute spa treatment. D | Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle

Day 2: Golden Triangle. Choose your own activity today. Explore the Golden Triangle by longtail boat. Then, travel like a local to a vibrant local market and an old temple. Alternatively, an elephant experience, meeting these gentle giants in their natural habitat and observing their behaviour up-close on a walk. Watch bath-time at the river before a private candlelit dinner at the elephant camp. BLD | Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle

Journey into Laos to board your luxurious two-cabin river vessel Gypsy, built in the style of a traditional thatched slow boat. Cruise downstream along the mighty Mekong River through picturesque countryside towards the village of Pak Tha. Enjoy cocktails and canapés on board followed by an elegant dinner. BLD | Gypsy

Day 4: Cruising the Upper Mekong River.
Rise to a Buddhist meditation session and continue cruising towards the pretty Kamu village of Ban Houy Phalam, renowned for its weaving and scarf production. After exploring the village on foot, return for lunch. Continue to Pak Beng with its strong Hmong identity and iconic temple, one of the oldest in the region. Or visit a Hmong village and elephant camp. Back onboard, sample local spirits and Lao rice wine. BLD | Gypsy

Day 5: Mekong River – Luang Prabang.
Early morning yoga before pulling up at some traditional villages where weaving and whisky making take place. Enjoy a cooking demonstration on board before lunch. This afternoon, pause at Pak Ou caves to admire the thousands of Buddha statues left by pilgrims over the centuries. Arrive later into UNESCO World Heritage listed Luang Prabang, a sacred riverside town. BL | Rosewood Luang Prabang

Day 6: Luang Prabang. Wander the streets of this peaceful place on your walking tour. Start at the National Museum, housed in the former Royal Palace. Meet with UNESCO’s former cultural advisor, Francis Engelmann, who is your expert guide. Wander through the charming lanes and backstreets, listening to stories of the city’s heritage and architecture, and marvel at the 16th century temple Wat Xieng Thong. This afternoon, venture into the countryside to the majestic Kuang Si waterfall. Then, visit Laos Buffalo Dairy, a social enterprise supporting underprivileged farmers with a commercial dairy and production facility. BL | Rosewood Luang Prabang

Day 7: Luang Prabang. Embark on a journey of culinary discovery when you join the Rosewood culinary director for an exploration of traditional Royal Laotian cuisine. Head to the market to source the fresh produce which adds flavours to the cuisine. Prepare your feast then enjoy the fruits of your labour. This evening, challenge locals to a game of “petang”, the Laotian answer to Pétanque. Then, savour a traditional Lao barbecue dinner. BLD | Rosewood Luang Prabang

Day 8: Depart Luang Prabang. Transfer to the airport for your departure flight. B

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS
• Indulge in far-flung luxury glamping in the Golden Triangle
• Spend time with elephants in their own habitat
• Discover the secrets of the Upper Mekong in luxury on an ultra-exclusive river vessel
• Explore sacred Luang Prabang on an expert-led walking tour
• Prepare a feast with a local culinary expert

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY

BANGKOK – PRIVATE EXTENSION
3 DAYS FROM $2,375 PER PERSON TWIN

The cultural and commercial Thai capital is high-voltage. It’s a city that never sleeps. Deeply traditional, Bangkok is at the same time thoroughly modern – ancient temples and palaces abut glittering skyscrapers and frenzied freeways. Cross the Chao Phraya River to old Bangkok, which is best explored on foot or by tuk tuk, to visit shrines and churches and taste traditional Thai snacks along the way. Inner-city Bangkok offers another perspective with street art and heritage architecture. The Peninsula Bangkok is our preferred accommodation choice. Please visit our website for more information.

AKP supported project:
Muang Khay Secondary School
Laos
SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA & THAILAND
LUXURY TRAIN JOURNEY
EASTERN & ORIENTAL EXPRESS

Experience the majesty and splendour of the Eastern & Oriental Express as you journey through the heart of Southeast Asia. This luxurious train recreates the golden age of rail travel: elegant lounges and cabins, afternoon tea and cocktails, delicious cuisine and superb service. The train becomes your platform for discovery venturing deep into the mesmerising landscapes of Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia. Take a front row seat in your private cabin or in the Observation Car to watch the astonishing landscapes shift and change. Then, step off the train to discover the region’s secrets for yourself.

THE CABINS

On board is a glamorous selection of cabins — all with cherry wood and elm burr panelled walls, inlaid woodwork, antique brass fittings and crisp white linen. There are three cabin categories: Pullman, State and Presidential, with full air-conditioning, large picture windows, en suite bathrooms and 24-hour steward. Guests in Presidential Cabins enjoy a complimentary cabin minibar. Attentive and discreet, staff look after you every step of the way, making sure your journey is smooth, indulgent and relaxing.

DINING

Dining is one of the highlights of the journey. There are two Restaurant Cars and internationally renowned chefs create a tantalising variety of Eastern and European specialities. Breakfast is delivered to your cabin.

ENTERTAINMENT

Belmond has mastered the art of luxury train travel and the Eastern & Oriental Express provides the perfect balance between leisure and inspiring excursions in the field. Relax in the Saloon Car with a book or magazine or choose from a selection of games.

The Bar Car is open from early morning until late at night and is the perfect place to order an aperitif or cocktail and share the day’s tales with fellow passengers, while the resident pianist plays in the background. After dinner, enjoy local performances.

OBSERVATION CAR

Located at the rear of the train, the colonial style, teakwood Observation Car is another wonderful place to observe the sights and sounds of southeast Asia by day, and cocktails and entertainment after dark.

SINGAPORE – BANGKOK | 3 DAYS

Rewind to an elegant bygone era of Singapore Slings, afternoon tea and a tinkling piano as you venture deep into the jungle-covered hills and lush plantations of Southeast Asia.

BANGKOK – SINGAPORE | 4 DAYS

Journey between two of Southeast Asia’s favourite capitals with a choice of excursions, including the Bridge over the River Kwai, in and around Kanchanaburi and the royal town of Kangsar.

SINGAPORE – KUALA LUMPUR – PENANG – BANGKOK | 7 DAYS

Experience Singapore’s legendary Raffles Hotel and venture into the heart of Malaysia through the mist-shrouded Cameron Highlands and palm plantations of the Malay Peninsula. See traditional village life and marvel at the cities of Kuala Lumpur and Georgetown.

Depending on your preferred travel dates and cabin availability, pricing will vary. Please contact your A&K Travel Specialist for further information and any promotional offers that may apply.
THE SUITES
Sanctuary Ananda offers two suites, 14 deluxe suites, four luxury suites and the Owner’s suite. All are air-conditioned with either double or twin beds, an en suite bathroom with monsoon showers and a large private balcony. The four luxury suites have spacious indoor seating and can accommodate a third guest. The ultra-luxurious Owners Suite has a king-sized bed, dressing area, a free-standing bathtub and monsoon shower, as well as private living and dining areas with superb panoramic views of the river. Contemporary luxuries, standard to every cabin include iPod docking station and iPad TV connectivity.

DAILY ACTIVITIES
Days start with complimentary, early morning meditation and sunrise yoga on the sundeck. While cruising during the day, guests can relax on a sun lounge or take a dip in the outdoor plunge pool. In the afternoons and evenings, local Burmese experts talk about the culture, history and attractions of Myanmar.

LUXURY ON BOARD
Traditional materials like local silk, polished teak and beautiful lacquerware have been used in the ship’s design, celebrating Myanmar’s rich craft heritage and creating contemporary luxury. The ship has one of the highest staff to guest ratios on the river. Other facilities include a sundeck with outdoor pool, restaurant, lounge, and the enticing Thambyadine Spa and gym.

WHAT’S INCLUDED
• All meals during full sailing days with lunch and dinner on day of embarkation and breakfast on day of disembarkation
• Soft drinks and local beer during the day, local wines with lunch and dinner
• All sightseeing as stated in set itineraries
• Full balconies for every suite
• A private guide and butler service in the Owners Suite

MYANMAR | CRUISING THE IRAWADDY AND CHINDWIN
The luxurious, all-suite Sanctuary Ananda carries 48 guests in style on voyages of breathtaking beauty and discovery on the mysterious rivers of Myanmar. Most of the cruises travel along the majestic Irrawaddy River between Bhamo and Yangon, visiting temples, pagodas, palaces and monasteries along the way, while cruising down its great tributary, the Chindwin, reveals places rarely seen. Sanctuary Ananda offers 2, 3, 4 and 7 night ‘Discovery Cruises’ as well as 10 and 11 night ‘Exploration Cruises’ which allow guests more time to explore these waterways.
SHINTA MANI WILD | CARDAMOM NATIONAL PARK, CAMBODIA

A luxury camp experience like you’ve never seen before with 15 custom-designed tents perched above the river channelling the traditional vintage wildlife safari. Explore wild frontiers and rainforest, look out for wild elephant, bear, gibbon and even tiger. Meander on one of the estuary boats along the waterways or trek out with experienced rangers. Culinary excellence means amazing meals, combining locally foraged delicacies with global gastronomy. And for a complete indulgence, head to the ‘Boulders Spa’ – where you can enjoy treatments and relaxation.

ROSEWOOD LUANG PRABANG | LUANG PRABANG, LAOS

Hidden in the lush jungle on the outskirts of Luang Prabang, Rosewood Luang Prabang has an idyllic setting with a river running through the heart of the resort. A grand colonial-styled residence houses the public areas while 23 spacious accommodations, spread across both banks of the river, feature interiors combining colonial-chic with indigenous materials and locally inspired artworks. Meals at The Great House use only fresh local ingredients, whilst other amenities include a bar, riverside pool, and Sense, A Rosewood Spa® offering a variety of holistic and luxury treatments.

FOUR SEASONS TENTED CAMP | GOLDEN TRIANGLE, THAILAND

Reached by river boat through a dense forest of bamboo, the Four Seasons Golden Triangle Tented Camp comes with a sense of adventure and style in an intimate tropical setting. There are just 15 luxurious tents, each designed as an open space with a large outdoor deck. Furnishings are handcrafted in styles reminiscent of 19th century expeditions, right down to the hand-beaten copper bathtubs. Don’t miss the stilt top bar for sundowners by the river, blissful Asian spa rituals in the open-air salas, and sumptuous dining on regional cuisine at Nong Yao Restaurant.

AQUA MEKONG | VIETNAM & CAMBODIA - CRUISING THE MEKONG AND TONLE SAP RIVERS

Described as a “floating five-star hotel”, the Aqua Mekong is constructed entirely from locally-sourced sustainable materials. As you drift along, observe the changing riverscape through your room’s gigantic movie-screen window. All 20 luxury suites, 8 of which have sky terraces, display a simple contemporary design. Enjoy tantalising dishes from Executive chef, David Thompson’s innovative menu of exotic Southeast Asian flavours. There is an abundance of facilities on board, including a screening room, air-conditioned library, plunge pool and spa treatment rooms.
CHINA & CENTRAL ASIA

Stretching from the Caspian Sea in the west to the China Sea in the east, this vast region which starts in the remote Central Asian steppe, takes in the iconic Silk Road and traverses the world’s most populous nation and its second largest economy, China. Ancient monuments and extravagant contemporary architecture vie for attention. Sleepy rural villages are at odds with the overcrowded cities and vast landscapes encompass grasslands, desert, mountains, lakes and great rivers.

UNMISSABLE CHINA & CENTRAL ASIA

TIBET
Himalayan landscapes, a profoundly spiritual culture and a location in one of the highest regions on Earth make Tibet a most intriguing destination. Discover beautiful old towns, a landscape dotted with prayer flags and prayer wheels, and Lhase, the region’s capital, and home to the UNESCO World Heritage listed Potala Palace.

YANGTZE RIVER, CHINA
The mighty Yangtze River snakes for a total of 6,380 kilometres, from its source in the mountains of Tibet to its mouth at Shanghai. The best way to explore this giant, winding torrent is on a Yangtze River cruise which will place you in the midst of the panoramic scenery, travelling through the very heart of the Chinese nation.

SAMARKAND, UZBEKISTAN
The legendary city of Samarkand is widely considered Uzbekistan’s most magnificent with a long history famously linked to the great 14th century ruler, Tamerlane. Once a key stop on the Silk Road, the ancient trade route linking China to the Mediterranean, the city is today known for its monumental mosques, grand mausoleums, exquisite tilework and lively bazaars.
China
Private Journey

Terracotta Warriors, Xian
Shennong Stream, Badong

The Great Wall, Beijing
Yu Garden, Shanghai

Dumplings at a street market, Beijing
HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA

15 DAYS – PRIVATE JOURNEY
BEIJING – PINGYAO – XIAN – YANGTZE CRUISE – SHANGHAI

PRICE: FROM $14,090 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $24,345.

Explore the fascinating enigma that is China. Peel back the layers of history in and around Beijing, where the Great Wall and Tiananmen Square will take your breath away. Gaze skywards in futuristic Shanghai. Unravel the mysteries of the ancient city of Xian, home to the Terracotta Warriors and a pulsating Muslim quarter. And find serenity as you cruise along the Yangtze.

Day 1: Arrive Beijing. Step into the vibrant, iconic and ever-surprising world of the Chinese capital. BLD | The Peninsula Beijing

Day 2: Beijing. Discover the Temple of Heaven and a Tai Chi demonstration (optional). Wander through the lively Pearl Market and continue to the Forbidden City. Cross to Tiananmen Square and soak up the atmosphere. BL | The Peninsula Beijing

Day 3: Beijing. Witness the Great Wall from the Mutianyu section without the crowds. Pass the 2008 Olympic sites on the way back and trace the history of old Beijing on a pedicab ride through the hutongs. BL | The Peninsula Beijing

Day 4: Beijing – Pingyao. Travel by train to China’s only surviving ancient walled city, Pingyao, and your courtyard style boutique hotel. BD | Jing’s Residence

Day 5: Pingyao. Climb the 14th century city wall, see the Ancient Opera Stages and Daoist Temple and meet a local family. Delve into a Ming dynasty courtyard home and stop at China’s earliest bank. BLD | Jing’s Residence

Day 6: Pingyao – Xian. Travel by train to Xian and admire a treasure trove of early Western Han dynasty artefacts and ongoing archaeological works before arriving at your hotel. B | Sofitel Legend People’s Grand Hotel Xian

Day 7: Xian. Be amazed as the extraordinary Terracotta Warriors are revealed. Considered one of the world’s greatest archaeological finds, the site was only discovered in 1974. Continue on to the City Wall and wander through the vibrant Muslim Quarter to the Great Mosque. BL | Sofitel Legend People’s Grand Hotel Xian

Day 8: Xian – Chongqing. Fly to Chongqing and visit Chongqing Zoo to meet the pandas. Board Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer for your cruise along the world’s third-longest river. BLD | Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer

Days 9-10: Cruising the Yangtze. Explore the spectacular Three Gorges. Uncover the secret 816 Underground Project, the world’s largest artificial military cave. Or, venture deep into the White Crane Ridge Underwater Museum. Stop at local markets and out-of-the-way villages for a fascinating glimpse into traditional rural China. BLD | Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer

Day 11: Yichang – Shanghai. Meander through Xiling gorge to the vast Three Gorges Dam for a tour of the site and exhibition centre. Disembark and journey to Yichang to visit the Three Travellers’ Cave and Riverside Park before flying to Shanghai. BL | The Peninsula Shanghai

Day 12: Shanghai. Discover the city’s diverse neighbourhoods: stroll along the Bund, taking in its historic architecture and famed skyline; navigate the tree-lined avenues of the French Concession and bask in the wonders of the Old Town, set around the exquisite Yu Garden. BL | The Peninsula Shanghai

Day 13: Shanghai. Travel by rail to Hangzhou, one of China’s seven ancient capitals. Visit a tea plantation and be part of a traditional tea ceremony. Then glide over West Lake on a short cruise before exploring the ancient city. BL | The Peninsula Shanghai

Day 14: Shanghai. A change of pace on a day trip to Zhujiajiao, an ancient water town. Wander the tiny lanes, take in the stone bridges and old homes and visit one of the largest private family gardens in China. Return to Shanghai with an evening acrobatic performance. BL | The Peninsula Shanghai

Day 15: Depart Shanghai. Travel by Maglev train to the airport. B

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS
• Experience China’s greatest cultural sites including the Great Wall of China, Forbidden City and Temple of Heaven
• Glimpse traditional Beijing life in a maze of hutongs and hyper-modern Shanghai
• Witness Xian’s intriguing Terracotta Warriors
• Venture off the beaten track to the ancient walled city of Pingyao
• Savour the natural grandeur of the Three Gorges on a relaxing Yangtze River cruise

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY

YANGSHUO – PRIVATE EXTENSION
3 DAYS FROM $1,695 PER PERSON TWIN

Venture deep into the vibrant landscapes of Southern China, where the karst mountain backdrops, winding rivers, and scattering of small villages are a feast for the eyes. See the surreal finger-like mountains rising high above the Li River plain. Drift along the Li River through rice fields and soak up the quietude of village life. The natural wonders here are never-ending. Please visit our website for more information.
CHINA
LUXURY SMALL
GROUP JOURNEY

Giant panda, Chengdu Forbidden City, Beijing
Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer, dumpling master class
Yangze River
Shanghai skyline at dusk

1300 851 800 | ABERCROMBIEKENT.COM.AU
Delight in a multitude of ancient wonders and iconic sites on this in-depth journey through China. In Beijing, explore the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall and the Temple of Heaven. Meander through the hutongs by pedicab. Get up-close to the Terracotta Warriors and see pandas in their natural habitat. Cruise through the Three Gorges on the Yangtze and finish up in dynamic Shanghai.

**Day 1:** Arrive Beijing. Arrive in the Chinese capital and transfer to your hotel. Four Seasons Hotel Beijing

**Day 2:** Beijing. After a welcome briefing, participate in a private tai chi lesson at the Temple of Heaven. After lunch, take in the sweep of history at Tiananmen Square before exploring the Forbidden City. Tonight, a special welcome dinner at your hotel. BLD | Four Seasons Hotel Beijing

**Day 3:** Beijing. Travel to the well-preserved Mutianyu section of the Great Wall of China. Walk or ride a cable car to the top for sweeping views of the surrounding mountains. Return to Beijing and ride like a local on a pedicab through the hutongs. BL | Four Seasons Hotel Beijing

**Day 4:** Beijing – Xian. Fly to Xian. After lunch, visit the old city with its teeming markets and beautiful Great Mosque, a 14th century national heritage site. BLD | Sofitel Legend People’s Grand Hotel Xian

**Day 5:** Xian. Today, accompanied by an on-site specialist, visit the excavation site of the Terracotta Warriors, the life-size army of more than 8,000 remarkably-crafted soldiers created during the Qin Dynasty. Then, enjoy a Chef’s Table dumpling-making demonstration and lunch. BL | Sofitel Legend People’s Grand Hotel Xian

**Day 6:** Xian – Chengdu. Travel to Chengdu. After lunch, immerse yourself in local life at the People’s Park, where local residents play traditional Chinese instruments, practice calligraphy and engage in tai chi. Observe a traditional tea demonstration and tonight, enjoy a special Sichuan hot pot dinner. BLD | Waldorf Astoria Chengdu

**Day 7:** Chengdu – Chongqing. Visit the Chengdu Panda Breeding and Research Centre, a rare opportunity to observe these endangered creatures roaming in their natural habitat. Then, board a high-speed train to Chongqing, to embark on your luxury river cruiser, Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer, for the three-night journey to Yichang. BLD | Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer

**Day 8:** Cruising the Yangtze. Early morning tai chi before breakfast. Disembark in the small city of Fuling for a visit to the White Crane Ridge Underwater Museum. Descend 45 metres underwater to see centuries-old rock carvings. Afterwards, visit a local market. This afternoon, learn about Chinese traditional medicine and reflexology. BLD | Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer

**Day 9:** The Three Gorges. Navigate the Qutang and Wu Gorges before anchoring at Badong for a ferry trip up Shennong Stream. Transfer to “pea pod” boats poled by Tuja boatmen to view a scenic gorge. Tonight, a “Taste of China” dinner and entertainment. BLD | Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer

**Day 10:** Yichang – Shanghai. Disembark and fly to Shanghai, stopping briefly to photograph the Three Gorges Dam. Upon arrival in Shanghai, transfer to your elegant hotel on the Bund. BL | The Waldorf Astoria Shanghai on the Bund

**Day 11:** Shanghai. Explore dynamic Shanghai and visit a traditional water village, Zhujiajiao. Attend an evening performance by the Shanghai Acrobatics Troupe, featuring dazzling feats of strength, balance and athleticism. B | The Waldorf Astoria Shanghai on the Bund

**Day 12:** Shanghai. Stroll the streets of the Old Town and visit the 16th century Yu Garden. Wander along the Bund and explore the studios and galleries in the M-50 Contemporary Art District. Tonight a festive farewell dinner. BLD | The Waldorf Astoria Shanghai on the Bund

**Day 13:** Depart Shanghai. Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. B
CHINA
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Auspicious 'First Bend' site, Yangtze River

Jade Dragon Snow Mountain Open Air Theatre

Buddhist nuns prepare prayer scrolls, Lhasa

Lijiang Old Town
CULTURES OF YUNNAN & TIBET

11 DAYS - PRIVATE JOURNEY
KUNMING - LIJIANG - SHANGRI-LA - TSEDANG - LHASA

PRICE: FROM $9,300 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $15,975.

Immerse yourself in the bygone cultures and impossibly beautiful mountains of China’s Yunnan province and Tibet. Journey along the ancient Tea Horse Road, so-named for the Chinese who traded tea for Tibetan horses. Discover villages built on age-old customs and delve deeper into mountains filled with extraordinary natural beauty and Buddhist temples. Then, climb even higher to Lhasa and peel back the many layers of Tibetan culture.

Day 1: Kunming – Lijiang. Arrival assistance at Kunming for flight to Lijiang. Intercontinental Lijiang Ancient Town Resort

Day 2: Lijiang. Discover the charms of Lijiang’s Old Town as you stroll through the cobbled streets amongst the postcard-perfect wooden houses. Cross ancient timber footbridges and continue to the auspicious Wang Gu Lou Pagoda before a tea ceremony. B | Intercontinental Lijiang Ancient Town Resort

Day 3: Lijiang. Visit the intriguing village of Bai Sha. Seek out the 16th century murals and meet Dr. Ho, the renowned 96-year-old herbal medicine practitioner. Later, visit the national Embroidery Institute and continue overland to Jade Dragon Snow Mountain for a cultural performance. In Shuhe, one of the earliest Naxi settlements, meander through this well-preserved town on the Tea Horse Road. B | Intercontinental Lijiang Ancient Town Resort

Day 4: Lijiang – Shangri-La. Journey overland to Shangri-La (formally Zhongdian) on the Yunnan-Tibet Highway. Pause en route at the ‘First Bend’ in the Yangtze River to see this auspicious site and visit the charming Naxi village of Shigu, with its large 16th century stone drum memorial. Continue to the dramatic Tiger Leaping Gorge for a short hike. BL | Songtsam Linka Shangri-La

Day 5: Shangri-La. Be introduced to Tibetan culture at the Songzanlin Monastery, the largest in Yunnan. Continue onwards to a Khampa village for an exclusive glimpse into Tibetan life. Pause at the 800-year-old working monastery, Ringha, where prayer flags flutter and visit the Tibetan Culture Museum. Or visit a traditional printing house. BL | Songtsam Linka Shangri-La

Day 6: Shangri-La. Discover the Napa Hai Forest Reserve and its wonderful wetlands. Visit the Nishi black pottery village to watch artisans at work and onwards to the Scenic Moon Crescent Gorge and the Marriage of the Waters. Visit the Dongzhulin Monastery and tonight, feast on a hearty Tibetan hot pot dinner. BLD | Songtsam Linka Shangri-La

Day 7: Shangri-La – Tsedang. Fly to Lhasa, then continue overland to Tsedang. Along the way, stop at Yumbu Lakang, said to be the first Tibetan palace. B | Tsedang Hotel

Day 8: Tsedang – Lhasa. Journey overland to Lhasa, one of the highest cities on earth and the heart and soul of Tibet. Along the way, pause at Samye Monastery, the oldest and most sacred of all monasteries in Tibet, dating to the late 8th century. BL | Shangri-La Hotel, Lhasa

Day 9: Lhasa. Discover the city’s long history and unique culture. Visit the 7th century Ani Tsankhung Nunnerly and the Jokhang Temple, Tibet’s most revered religious structure. Lose yourself in nearby Barkhor Bazaar and, after lunch, explore the serene Sera Monastery and watch the dramatic debates held between monks. BL | Shangri-La Hotel, Lhasa

Day 10: Lhasa. Visit the Thousand Buddha Shrine, and count the statues carved into the rock face. Then, climb to the Potala Palace, the UNESCO World Heritage site dominating the skyline of Lhasa. This intricate building was commissioned by the Dalai Lama in 1645 and became the winter residence of nine Dalai Lamas. Continue to Norbulingka, “the Jewel Park”, and venture inside the palace of the present Dalai Lama, left exactly as it was when he fled to India in 1959. BL | Shangri-La Hotel, Lhasa

Day 11: Depart Lhasa. Transfer to Lhasa Airport for your onward flight. B

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS
• Appreciate age-old customs at a traditional tea ceremony
• Roam the ancient streets of Shuhe, a UNESCO-listed village
• Enjoy true Tibetan hospitality in a local family home
• Meet a world-renowned Chinese medicinal practitioner
• Visit one of Tibet’s great six monasteries, Sera Monastery

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY

AMANDAYAN LIJIANG
Gateway to the ancient heritage of Lijiang, the flawlessly designed Amandayan is a haven of tranquility with dwellings arranged around peaceful courtyards overlooking the tiled rooves of Lijiang. The 35 wooden suites draw on typical Naxi architecture and incorporate local materials. Distinctive upturned rooves and red rafters anchor the villa in its surrounds while sleek interiors are outfitted with local embroidery, timber furnishings and elaborately carved screens. Locally grown ingredients feature in Amandayan’s restaurants, from the Chinese restaurant serving Naxi fare with a modern touch to the Lounge with Asian and Western dishes and the Tea House overlooking the Old Town. Rejuvenating spa treatments incorporate local herbs and ancient Taoist practices.
CHINA
LIMITED EDITION SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

Emin Minaret, Turpan, Xinjiang

Xian

View of the Mingsha Sand Dunes from The Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel

100 year old Uighur tea house, Kashgar

Mogao Caves, Dunhuang

Xian
Venture along the ancient Silk Road in the footsteps of merchants and caravans, from the imperial capital of Xian to Dunhuang and Kashgar. Traverse this vast hinterland, the rugged and desolate landscapes and once-flourishing oasis cities and trading outposts. Visit sites important to both Buddhist and Uighur culture and explore cities whose names have captured the imagination for centuries.

Day 1: Arrive Xian. Arrive into China’s ancient imperial capital to an A&K welcome. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Shangri-La Hotel

Day 2: Xian. After a briefing from your Resident Tour Director, venture out to the Muslim Quarter to visit the Great Mosque and the Ming period city wall. A special welcome dinner this evening. BLD | Shangri-La Hotel

Day 3: Xian. Xian’s most famous attraction awaits – the Terracotta Warriors. Rediscovered in 1974, the terracotta army is regarded by many as the most sensational archaeological discovery of the 20th century. BL | Shangri-La Hotel

Day 4: Xian – Dunhuang. Fly west to Dunhuang, an important stop on the ancient Silk Road. Admire the vast collection of artefacts in the Dunhuang Museum and this evening, dine on the roof top of your hotel overlooking the Gobi Desert. BD | The Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel

Day 5: Dunhuang. Explore the Mogao Caves today with an expert from the Dunhuang Academy. This is the best-preserved repository of Buddhist art in the world, and your visit includes special access to areas and artworks normally closed to the public. Later, explore the central market area on your own. BLD | The Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel

Day 6: Dunhuang. Your focus today is the Buddhist Yulin Caves which have a magnificent setting on a cliff face. Tonight, soak up the local atmosphere in the bustling night market. BLD | The Silk Road Dunhuang Hotel

Day 7: Dunhuang – Urumqi. Journey northwest to Jade Gate Pass, a strategic point on the ancient Silk Road. Nearby is a 2,000 year-old remnant of the Great Wall from the Han Period. Travel by rail to Urumqi. BLD | Grand Mercure Urumqi Hualing

Day 8: Urumqi. In Turpan, visit the impressive ruins of the ancient city of Gaochang. Built in the 2nd century BC, it became a key point on the Silk Road. Time to explore before heading to the 18th century Emin Minaret. Accept your invitation into a local Uighur home for a traditional lunch under a trellis of grapevines with local musicians performing. BLD | Grand Mercure Urumqi Hualing

Day 9: Urumqi – Kashgar. A special introduction to the Xinjiang Museum this morning with an expert revealing archaeological treasures from the Silk Road. An afternoon flight to remote Kashgar, a trading centre for millennia with a captivating spirit. BLD | Yue Xing Jin Jiang International Hotel

Day 10: Kashgar. Start today at the Tomb of Abjak Hoja, a 16th century funerary compound, before hitting the great Sunday Market, where livestock is traded and stall holders sell spices, silk, tea, carpets, handicrafts, fresh produce and much more. After lunch, visit the largest mosque in China and then stroll through the quiet alleys of the old city. This evening, you’re invited as honoured guests into the home of a local Uighur family for tea and traditional treats. BLD | Yue Xing Jin Jiang International Hotel

Day 11: Kashgar. Visit Artush and the tomb of Sultan Bughra Khan, one of the first Turkic rulers to convert to Islam. Relax alfresco in a local fig garden where drinks and local delicacies are shared. Farewell new travelling companions over dinner in a family home with traditional entertainment. BLD | Yue Xing Jin Jiang International Hotel

Day 12: Depart Kashgar. Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.
UZBEKISTAN & TURKMENISTAN
LIMITED EDITION SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

One-on-one interaction with your A&K Host
Statues around the Monument of Independence, Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
Registan Square, Samarkand, Uzbekistan
Uzbekistan's signature dish, plov
ANCIENT TRADE ROUTES OF CENTRAL ASIA

16 DAYS - LIMITED EDITION SMALL GROUP JOURNEY
TASHKENT - SAMARKAND - BUKHARA - MARY - ASHGABAT - KHIVA - NUKUS - TASHKENT


PRICE: FROM $11,495 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FROM $1,995.

The mountains and deserts of Central Asia are the backdrop for this extraordinary adventure to one of the world’s most remote and untouched areas where you explore Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, two countries steeped in antiquity with a lasting legacy from the warriors and emperors who made their mark. Visit some of the oldest cities in the world – Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva – each with a glorious architectural heritage.

Day 1: Arrive Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Arrive in time for an evening briefing with your Resident Tour Director. Lotte City Hotel Tashkent Palace

Day 2: Tashkent. Explore 2,000 years of history including the Hazrat Imam Islamic complex, the Chorsu Bazaar, the market and Museum of Applied Arts. This evening is a welcome dinner. BLD | Lotte City Hotel Tashkent Palace

Day 3: Tashkent. Discover artefacts, art and Uzbek costumes at the History Museum. Stroll around Independence Square. Take a ride on the underground and visit a ceramic workshop. BL | Lotte City Hotel Tashkent Palace

Day 4: Tashkent – Samarkand. Journey by train to Samarkand. Visit the great ruler Tamerlane’s famous mausoleum and Registan Square before a cooking demonstration and lunch. BL | Hotel Grand Samarkand Superior

Day 5: Samarkand. An artisan encounter at a papermaking workshop and silk carpet factory. Visit the Shah-i-Zinda necropolis and Bibi Khanyym Mosque before heading to the Ulugh Beg Observatory. Later, explore the local bazaar. BL | Hotel Grand Samarkand Superior

Day 6: Samarkand – Bukhara. Journey by train to the magical city of Bukhara. Visit the ancient trading domes and the spectacular Ark, a 5th century royal citadel. BL | Omar Khayyam Hotel

Day 7: Bukhara. Explore the early 18th century Bolo Hauz Mosque and Ismail Samani mausoleum which dates from the 10th century. Dinner and a folk show this evening. BLD | Omar Khayyam Hotel

Day 8: Bukhara. Visit the glorious Summer Palace of the last Bukhara emirs which dates from the beginning of last century. Afternoon at leisure. BL | Omar Khayyam Hotel

Day 9: Bukhara – Mary, Turkmenistan. Journey to the Uzbek-Turkmen border at Farab and continue on the road to Mary, an oasis city in the Karakum Desert. BL | Hotel Mary

Day 10: Mary – Ashgabat. Explore the ancient city of Merv and this evening fly to Ashgabat, whose skyline rises starkly from the surrounding desert. BL | Ouguzkent Hotel

Day 11: Ashgabat. A visit to the World Heritage listed Old Nisa fortress, at the foot of the Kopet-Dag Mountains. Later, an exclusive tour of the Arkadash stud farm, home of the oldest breed of horse in existence. Visit the Russian Market and the National Carpet Museum. BD | Ouguzkent Hotel

Day 12: Ashgabat – Khiva, Uzbekistan. Fly to Dashoguz, the second city, after Bukhara, in Central Asia. Explore the old town monuments including the mosque, caravanserai gates, fortresses, mausoleums and minaret. This afternoon, cross the Uzbek border and travel on to Khiva. BL | Asia Khiva Hotel

Day 13: Khiva. Tour the highlights of this medieval town where brilliant blue tilework embellishes the rich mudbrick architecture. This evening, soak up sunset views from the city walls, before a traditional dinner at Zaynab’s family home. BD | Asia Khiva Hotel

Day 14: Khiva – Nukus. Journey to the ancient fortress site of Ayaz-Kala for a short trek with breathtaking views. Head to the ancient settlement of Toprak-Kala before arriving into the remote city of Nukus where an extraordinary collection of Russian avant-garde art has been amassed. BLD | Jipek Joli Hotel

Day 15: Nukus – Tashkent. Return by air to Tashkent where a farewell dinner is held. BD | Lotte City Hotel Tashkent Palace

Day 16: Depart Tashkent. Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS
• Walk in the footsteps of emperors and priests and discover the ancient civilisations of the Silk Road
• Breathe in the dramatic landscapes of the vast Central Asian steppe
• Marvel at some of the world’s most impressive mosque architecture
• Soak up the atmosphere in exotic markets, bazaars and caravanserais
• Discover the rich handicraft traditions of Central Asia meeting artisans and craftsmen in their workshops
THE CABINS
Offering 38 cabins, 24 suites and four themed suites over four decks, the ship boasts the largest and best appointed cabins on the river. Each has floor-to-ceiling picture windows, a private balcony and en suite bathroom.

DAILY ACTIVITIES
Complementing the natural beauty of the river is a rich programme of shore excursions and shipboard activities that highlight the wealth of China’s cultural traditions as well as the river’s history and ecology. Tai Chi classes, Chinese cooking and silk embroidery are just some of the diversions available. In between activities, the Huang Ding Spa beckons. There’s also a fitness centre, sauna and beauty salon.

LUXURY ON BOARD
Dining is a delight with a team of internationally trained chefs dishing up innovative à la carte menus featuring Chinese and continental cuisine served with complimentary house wines and other refreshments at lunch and dinner. The ship boasts the highest crew to passenger ratio on the river of 1:1 delivering exceptional personalised service.

FAMILIES
The specially tailored ‘Summer River Camp’ welcomes families on four night cruises, upstream from Yichang to Chongqing, with exciting activities planned to keep all entertained. There is Chinese Opera mask painting, paper folding, cooking, kite making, movie nights and early morning Tai Chi.

WHAT’S INCLUDED
• All three meals during full sailing days and breakfast on day of disembarkation
• Beverages with meals including house wine, local beer, soft drinks and water
• Entrance fees as part of scheduled sightseeing
• Pre-arranged entertainment and on-board activities
The flawlessly designed Amandayan is a haven of tranquillity with dwellings arranged around peaceful courtyards overlooking the clay-tiled roofs of Lijiang with its winding streets, bridges and ancient architecture. The resort’s 35 wooden suites draw on typical Naxi architecture and incorporate local materials. Distinctive upturned roofs and red rafters anchor the villas in their surrounds, while sleek interiors are outfitted with local embroidery, timber furnishings and elaborately carved screens. Locally grown ingredients feature in Amandayan’s restaurants and the Aman Spa’s range of therapies is informed by traditional Chinese medicine.

Located within walking distance of some of the Tibetan capital’s best-known attractions, the Shangri-La Hotel exudes local elegance within tranquil and ancient surroundings and distinctive Tibetan architecture. Each of its 262 guestrooms and 17 suites feature designs inspired by the Tibetan city. Views of the gleaming Potala Palace or the mountains are enjoyed from every room. There are four exceptional restaurants, an elegant lounge, gym, spa and indoor heated pool. Guests can unwind in the oxygen lounge and reflexology pavilion while adjusting to the high altitude, then revive the body and mind at CHI spa with a soothing signature treatment.

Listed in Condé Nast Traveller’s Hot List 2018, The Murray is the city’s newest luxury hotel. Converted from an iconic 1960s office building, it has been reinvigorated with style and sophistication. Brushed brass, marble counters and black granite floors greet guests with modern art and sculptures dotted throughout. Rooms are cleverly angled to reduce direct sunlight and interiors feature an elegant palette of charcoal greys and taupes with marble en suite bathrooms and brushed brass tapware. Murray Lane, the lobby bar, is a popular meeting spot and there are four more restaurant choices including Guo Fu Lou for fine Cantonese.

Our relationships with only the finest properties let you choose your accommodation with confidence. Below are some of our preferred options for China, or please contact your travel specialist to discuss other recommendations.

THE PENINSULA BEIJING | BEIJING, CHINA

The Peninsula Beijing exudes an atmosphere of luxury living, exemplified by the highest standards of service and flawless attention to detail. Behind the imposing, traditional Chinese styled exterior, subtle Chinese influences enhance every room and suite. All are spacious and decorated in soothing greys and whites with elegantly streamlined furniture, sleek white marble bathrooms, and modern electronic systems with fingertip controls. The overall feel throughout the hotel is one of opulence and lavish indulgence — from the restaurants and bars to the apartment style rooms and suites. It is widely accepted as the premier 5-star hotel in the city.

AMANDAYAN | LIJIANG, CHINA

SHANGRI-LA HOTEL | LHASA, TIBET
MONGOLIA

Untamed and untrodden, Mongolia enchants with its wide-open plains, friendly and proud people, and the lore of one of the world’s greatest empires. One of the oldest and least populated countries on earth, Mongolia is dotted with timeworn Buddhist monasteries, crystal-clear lakes, and plenty of opportunity for quiet reflection. It is also one of the few places left on the planet where you can sleep in a herder’s ger, meet the horsemen who hunt with eagles, and witness extraordinary spectacles of skill, strength and daring. A journey to Mongolia offers adventure par excellence.

UNMISSABLE MONGOLIA

GOLDEN EAGLE FESTIVAL
The thrilling Golden Eagle Festival takes place in the far west of the country over two days every October. One of the oldest, most revered and spectacular celebrations of the Kazakh people, the festival brings together the best hunters and their eagles in an impressive display of showmanship, speed, agility and accuracy. Ceremonies, dance performances, a parade and equine competitions take place in honour of the hunters and their eagles.

GOBI DESERT
Covering an area of more than one million square kilometres, the Gobi is the largest desert in Asia. Its topography varies from colossal sand dunes and grassy plains to rocky mountains and river beds. Famous palaeontological finds, including fossilised dinosaur eggs, have been unearthed as well as ancient artefacts. Wildlife includes lammergeiers, argali sheep, ibex, the elusive Gobi bear, wild camels and snow leopard.

NAADAM FESTIVAL
This colourful celebration has changed little since the days of Genghis Khan. Marvel at the elaborate opening ceremony featuring dancers, athletes, horsemen and musicians. Then, witness the nation’s best athletes as they compete for gold in archery, horse racing and Mongolian wrestling.
MONGOLIA
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Traditional ger, Three Camel Lodge

Meet the locals

Flaming Cliffs, Gobi Desert

Mongolian meadow and gers

Zaisan Memorial, Ulaanbaatar
NOMADS & GERS

7 DAYS - PRIVATE JOURNEY
ULAANBAATAR - GOBI DESERT - ULAANBAATAR

Price: FROM $8,625 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $16,640.

Experience Mongolia like the Khans on this illuminating journey through the land of endless sky. Wander the intriguing city of Ulaanbaatar before venturing into a striking and stark land of rolling steppe, the Gobi Desert and dinosaur fossils. And meet Mongolia’s nomadic herdsmen to learn first-hand about an ancient and enduring way of life.

Day 1: Arrive Ulaanbaatar. Welcome to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia’s boomtown capital. Settle into your hotel and get your bearings in this intriguing city. Shangri-La Hotel

Day 2: Ulaanbaatar. Today’s private city tour begins with the Gandan Monastery, one of the few monasteries in the city that survived Stalin’s religious purges of the 1930s. Explore intricately decorated temples in this Buddhist sanctuary and greet red-robed monks as they perform their daily rituals. Get an overview of Mongolia’s past at the National Museum of Mongolia, where galleries display Stone and Bronze Age artefacts, sacred relics, and tribal costumes. After lunch, tour the Zanabazar Museum of Fine Arts, home to one of the world’s greatest collections of Buddhist art and artefacts. This evening, drive to Zaisan Memorial for sunset views of the city and the vast emptiness beyond. BLD | Shangri-La Hotel

Day 3: Ulaanbaatar – South Gobi Desert. Transfer to the airport for your flight south to Dalanzadgad. Journey overland to Yol Valley National Park in the foothills of the craggy Altai Mountains. Hike the valley for a chance to spot indigenous vulture-like Lammergeiers, Altai snowcocks, ibex, yaks and Argali mountain sheep. Continue to your eco-lodge, a National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World, set amid the Gobi’s vast desert landscapes. Here, you’ll stay in a ger, a traditional Mongolian tent with all the added sophistication and attentive service of a luxury lodge. Settle in before exploring the incredible surroundings of the Gurvansaikhan National Park. Opt to ride on horseback around the Bulagtai mountains, or simply relax in a swing seat on the terrace looking out over the desert. After twilight fades, marvel as the vast starlit desert sky comes alive. BLD | Three Camel Lodge

Day 4: South Gobi Desert. Journey overland to Tugrugyn Shiree, renowned for its famous fossil discovery of the ‘Fighting Dinosaurs’ in the 1970s. Explore the white sandstone escarpment and nearby sand dunes. Later, head to Bulgan and discover one of the only farms in the Gobi supplying local ger camps with fruit and vegetables. Finally, visit a local family for a window into the enduring nomadic culture of Mongolia. BLD | Three Camel Lodge

Day 5: South Gobi Desert. Set off on the back of a Bactrian (two-humped) camel through the dunes of Molsog Els for a glimpse into a way of life that has endured for centuries (option to hike, if you prefer). Step inside the home of a local camel-herding family and enjoy true Mongolian hospitality. Then, head to the Flaming Cliffs to see where the adventurer Roy Chapman Andrews – the model for Indiana Jones – discovered a dinosaur embryo in 1921. As dusk falls, marvel at the orange glow that gives the cliffs their name. BLD | Three Camel Lodge

Day 6: South Gobi Desert – Ulaanbaatar. Return to the capital by air and visit the largest equestrian statue in the world, the imposing Genghis Khan Statue Complex. Gaze upon the 40-metre-tall statue of the infamous former ruler of the Mongol Empire, before spending the afternoon exploring at your own pace. This evening, take your seat as traditional dancers and khoomei throat singers conjure up the magic of Mongolia. BLD | Shangri-La Hotel

Day 7: Depart Ulaanbaatar. Transfer to the airport where your journey ends.

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS
- Get a firsthand look at the everyday life of Mongolian nomads
- Stay in a ger, a traditional Mongolian tent, at the award-winning Three Camel Lodge
- Listen to the mesmerising sounds of khoomei throat singing during a traditional dance performance
- Ride a Bactrian (two-humped) camel across the Gobi Desert

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY

HONG KONG – PRIVATE EXTENSION
3 DAYS FROM $1,465 PER PERSON TWIN
Asia’s most cosmopolitan city is sophisticated and diverse. With an abundance of attractions, it has one of the world’s most iconic skylines with towering skyscrapers hugging the forested slopes of Victoria Peak and, by night, a dazzling display of neon lighting. To get the best out of the city, explore the ‘wet’ markets, antique shops and galleries of Central, or browse the designer stores of Pacific Place. Please visit our website for more information.
MONGOLIA’S GOLDEN EAGLE FESTIVAL WITH PALANI MOHAN

12 DAYS – LIMITED EDITION SMALL GROUP JOURNEY
ULAANBAATAR – ÖLGII – ULAANBAATAR – SOUTH GOBI DESERT – ULAANBAATAR


PRICE: FROM $15,555 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FROM $3,195.

Mongolia is vast, remote and hauntingly beautiful where life has changed little in centuries and age-old practices of horsemanship, herding and hunting are handed down from generation to generation. On this rare visit, spend two days at the thrilling Golden Eagle Festival where Kazakh horsemen demonstrate their competitive skills with the prized golden eagle. You’ll be honoured by the Mongol hospitality, bed down in a traditional ger and marvel at Buddhist monasteries.

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS
• Travel with award-winning photographer and Mongolia expert, Palani Mohan
• Marvel at the spectacular celebrations and events of the Golden Eagle Festival
• Explore sand dunes, ancient petroglyphs and the desert aglow at sunset
• See populations of the wild Mongolian horse in its natural habitat
• Meet with a Golden Eagle hunter in a memorable private encounter

Day 1: Arrive Ulaanbaatar. Welcome to the Mongolian capital and transfer to your hotel. Shangri-La Hotel

Day 2: Ulaanbaatar. After a morning briefing, head out to explore. First stop, Sukhbaatar Square, then Gandan Monastery, one of Mongolia’s most important. At the National History Museum, see dinosaur eggs from the Gobi Desert and traditional costumes. A welcome dinner this evening. BLD | Shangri-La Hotel

Day 3: Ulaanbaatar – Ölgii. Fly to Ölgii in the far west of the country for the impressive Golden Eagle Festival. One of the oldest, most revered and spectacular celebrations of Mongolia’s Kazakh people, this marks the tradition of hunting with specially trained eagles and brings together the best hunters and their eagles in impressive displays. Spend two days at the festival with accommodation set up exclusively for A&K in a traditional ger camp. BLD | Ger

Days 4–5: Ölgii. Receive privileged access to the opening ceremony of the Golden Eagle Festival. Marvel at Kazakh hunters riding with the golden eagles perched on their arms demonstrating the skills they have acquired since childhood. Eagle training competitions, dance performances and various Kazakh equestrian challenges are also part of this unforgettable event, as well as the opportunity to meet some of the hunters with their eagles. BLD | Ger

Day 6: Ölgii – Ulaanbaatar. Return by air to Ulaanbaatar. BL | Shangri-La Hotel

Day 7: Ulaanbaatar. Enjoy a full day excursion to Khustain Nuruu National Park where photographic opportunities abound. This vast reserve protects Mongolia’s wild horse, the endangered takhi, the unique steppe ecosystem and other unusual rare species. BL | Shangri-La Hotel

Day 8: Ulaanbaatar – South Gobi Desert. Fly south to Dalanzadgad, provincial capital of the South Gobi. You are met and driven northwest to the lush Yol Valley. Hike into the valley with its dramatic rocky cliffs and narrow canyons and keep an eye out for the indigenous lammergeiers (bearded vulture). Continue to Three Camel Lodge, where your accommodation is in a typical felt-covered ger set against the dramatic backdrop of the remote Gobi Altai mountains. BLD | Three Camel Lodge

Day 9: South Gobi Desert. This morning, mount Bactrian camels for an adventure into the surreal and expansive sand dunes of Moltsog Els. Encounter local camel breeders and their families before an afternoon at leisure. BLD | Three Camel Lodge

Day 10: South Gobi Desert. A morning hike in the nearby Havsgait Valley where views are breathtaking. See the ancient rock petroglyphs left by early Gobi settlers 15,000 to 40,000 years ago. Return to camp for lunch and watch an historic documentary on palaeontologist Roy Chapman Andrews who, in 1923, discovered the first fossilised dinosaur eggs in an area he named the Flaming Cliffs for the particular way the desert glowed, especially in the early evening light. Get this singular experience on a special sundowner outing this evening. BLD | Three Camel Lodge

Day 11: South Gobi Desert – Ulaanbaatar. A return flight to Ulaanbaatar for your final night in Mongolia. A farewell dinner with entertainment is planned this evening. BD | Shangri-La Hotel

Day 12: Depart Ulaanbaatar. Farewell Mongolia with a transfer to the airport for your departure flight. B
Spectacular display of equine skill

Genghis Khan Statue Complex, Ulaanbaatar

Archery, Naadam Festival, Ulaanbaatar

Naadam Festival, Ulaanbaatar

Buddha statue, Gandan Monastery, Ulaanbaatar
MONGOLIA: NAADAM FESTIVAL & THE KHAN LEGACY

12 DAYS – MARCO POLO SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

BEIJING – ULAANBAATAR – GOBI DESERT – ULAANBAATAR – BEIJING


PRICE: FROM $20,030 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FROM $5,285.

Price includes internal economy class airfare: From $2,390 per person.

Limited to 18 guests.

Retrace the footsteps of the Khan legacy as you take in the vivid spectacle of a centuries-old festival, explore the far-flung wilds of the Gobi Desert and follow Kublai Khan’s influence through the winding lanes of Beijing.

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

• Witness one of the continent’s oldest spectacles of skill, strength and daring at the annual Naadam Festival
• Walk a section of the Great Wall and trace Kublai Khan’s footsteps through the hutongs of Beijing
• Share perspectives with a Buddhist lama at a monastery
• Ride a camel through the dunes of Moltsog Els
• Explore the desolate yet fossil-rich Flaming Cliffs, a site of ground-breaking paleontological discoveries

Day 1: Arrive Beijing, China. Arrive into the Chinese capital where you are met and transferred to your hotel. Four Seasons Hotel Beijing

Day 2: Beijing. Witness one of the great man-made wonders of the world: The Great Wall. Leave the crowds behind at the Mutianyu section and scale the steps for sweeping views of the wall and mountains, or ride the cable car up and toboggan down. Return to Beijing to explore the imperial grandeur of the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square. Gather for a special welcome dinner at your hotel.

Day 3: Beijing – Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Fly to Ulaanbaatar and transfer to your hotel. Get your bearings in Sukhbaatar Square, explore the Great Khan’s Memorial and the National Museum of Mongolian History, where a local historian recounts the saga of Genghis Khan and his Mongol Empire. BLD | Shangri-La Hotel

Day 4: Ulaanbaatar. Visit Gandan Khiid Monastery, one of the few to survive Stalin’s purges of the 1930s. Explore intricately decorated temples accompanied by a top-ranking lama. Later, travel into the steppe to Tsonjin Boldog to see the largest equestrian statue in the world – the 40-metre-high effigy of Genghis Khan astride his horse.

Day 5: Ulaanbaatar – Gobi Desert. Fly to the Gobi Desert and journey overland to your eco-lodge set amid the vast desert landscape. Settle into your felt-covered ger, a traditional Mongolian home, and enjoy sophisticated and attentive lodge service before visiting the Bulgan Temple, where spectacular views await.

Day 6: Gobi Desert. Journey overland to the Yol Valley, in the foothills of the Altai Mountains. Hike through the valley for a chance to spot indigenous vulture-like Lammergeiers, Altai snowcocks, ibex, yaks and Argali mountain sheep. Optional hike through the Havsagt Valley to discover ancient petroglyphs.

Day 7: Gobi Desert. Ride a Bactrian camel through the dunes of Moltsog Els and meet a local camel-herding family for a taste of true Mongolian hospitality. Then, head to the Flaming Cliffs to see where adventurer Roy Chapman Andrews discovered a dinosaur embryo in 1921.

Day 8: Gobi Desert – Ulaanbaatar. Return to Ulaanbaatar by air. Venture to the Zanabazar Museum of Fine Arts, home to one of the world’s greatest collections of Buddhist art and artefacts. This evening, take your seat as dancers and khoomei throat singers conjure up the magic of Mongolia.

Days 9–10: Ulaanbaatar. Spend the next two days at the annual Naadam Festival, Mongolia’s greatest sporting event, which has changed little since the 12th century and the days of Genghis Khan. Marvel at the elaborate opening ceremony that features dancers, athletes, horse riders and musicians. Then, witness the nation’s best athletes as they compete for gold in archery, horse racing and Mongolian wrestling.

Day 11: Ulaanbaatar – Beijing. Fly back to Beijing. Trace the history of old Beijing as you ride like a local by pedicab through the labyrinthine ‘hutongs’. This evening, gather with fellow travellers to celebrate your journey with a farewell dinner.

Day 12: Depart Beijing. Transfer to the airport for onward flight.
JAPAN

The snow-clad peaks of iconic Mt Fuji and the mountains of Hokkaido, the Shinto shrines and geishas of Kyoto and the fast-moving neon-lit metropolis of Tokyo combine to make Japan a country of extraordinary beauty, while its historic and cultural attractions make it a unique and exciting travel destination. Let A&K handcraft your personal journey to take in the modern highlights of Osaka and Tokyo, the traditional culture of the samurai or kabuki theatre, a traditional tea ceremony and the famous hot springs and inns of Hakone.

UNMISSABLE JAPAN

KYOTO
A holiday in Kyoto means a stay amidst an astonishing 1,600 Buddhist temples, 400 Shinto shrines and 17 UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Kyoto thankfully escaped heavy bombing in WWII, leaving much of the city’s historic and cultural legacy intact. The city also offers more modern architectural marvels, like the mammoth futuristic glass edifice of the Kyoto station complex.

ISE-SHIMA PENINSULA
Discover this largely undiscovered paradise on Honshu’s Pacific coast, renowned for its natural beauty, sacred Shinto shrines, ancient pilgrim trails and hot springs. Meet the incredible women who free dive for pearls, visit their homes and savour freshly foraged seafood prepared over hot coals.

KANAZAWA
Complete with beautifully authentic, preserved samurai and geisha districts, the extraordinary castle town of Kanazawa is picturesque and culturally enthralling. As well as providing an incredible insight to Japan’s culture and history, it is also recognised for its sublime food, its traditional arts and crafts and its stunning gardens, including the 17th century Kenrokuen garden considered ‘one of Japan’s greatest’.
JAPAN
PRIVATE JOURNEY

Geisha, Kyoto

Tokaido Shinkansen and Mt Fuji

Tokyo skyline at sunset

Amanemu, Ise-Shima Peninsula

Sumo wrestlers practicing, Tokyo
**TIMELESS JAPAN**

**12 DAYS – PRIVATE JOURNEY**

**TOKYO – SHIMA – KYOTO – OSAKA**

**PRICE:** FROM $24,870 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SOLO TRAVELLER FROM $44,600.

Experience Japan at its most refined on a journey through the ancient and the ultra-modern. Experience a world where exquisite tea ceremonies, contemplative Zen gardens and the elegant geisha tradition blend with high-speed trains, pared-back eateries, and glittering skyscrapers. Combine all this with timeless natural beauty, exalted art and craft traditions, and heavenly cuisine, and you’ll understand why Japan ranks among the world’s greatest travel destinations.

**Day 1: Arrive Tokyo.** Arrive in the Japanese capital and transfer to your hotel. Palace Hotel Tokyo

**Day 2: Tokyo.** Start in a perfect Japanese garden that traces its origins back to the Edo period. Enjoy freshly-made green tea at a teahouse and visit Tokyo’s old town, Asakusa. Continue to the elegant Meiji Shrine and stroll through the park. Finish the day in the famous Omotesando and Harajuku shopping districts. BL | Palace Hotel Tokyo

**Day 3: Tokyo.** Go behind the scenes of Japan’s national sport when you step into a sumo stable and watch the wrestlers train. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Japan’s cultural capital. This evening, you’re invited to uncover the secrets of Japan’s elegant geishas during an evening kaiseki dining experience. BD | Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto

**Day 4: Tokyo.** Escape to seaside Kamakura for a walking tour of the ancient capital taking in its important temples. Return to Tokyo by rail and meander through the busy streets of Komachi-dori. BL | Palace Hotel Tokyo

**Day 5: Tokyo – Shima.** Ride the world-famous Shinkansen bullet train to Nagoya. Then, journey south to the Mie Prefecture, famous for its wild hills, dense forests and citrus trees. Pause at the famous Ise Shrine, considered one of the most sacred for the Shinto religion and a popular pilgrimage destination. Take a short walk to the Okage-Yokocho and browse the traditional shops selling local arts and food. Then, continue to the wedded rocks of Meoto-Iwa before arriving at your luxury sanctuary amongst the hills. BLD | Amanemu

**Day 6: Shima.** Head to a fishing village and meet the female free-divers at the heart of the region’s thriving pearl industry. Step inside a diver’s hut and join your hosts for freshly prepared seafood and tea. Visit a picturesque artisan laboratory that produces katsuobushi (dried, fermented smoked tuna flakes, essential in the making of Japan’s signature dashi stock). BL | Amanemu

**Day 7: Shima – Kyoto.** Travel to Kyoto and enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Japan’s cultural capital. This evening, you’re invited to uncover the secrets of Japan’s elegant geishas during an evening kaiseki dining experience. BD | Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto

**Day 8: Kyoto.** Wander around the ornamental Nijo Castle and continue to the Golden Pavilion, one of Kyoto’s most famous temples. Explore some other impressive temples in the area before heading to the Nishiki food market and Sanjusangendo Temple. BL | Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto

**Day 9: Kyoto.** A morning at leisure. This afternoon visit Kodai-ji, one of Kyoto’s most famous Zen Buddhist temples. Enjoy VIP access for a private tea ceremony. Next, lose yourself in the charming Higashiyama district filled with tea houses and artisan shops and the Kiyomizu Temple. B | Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto

**Day 10: Kyoto – Osaka.** Journey to vibrant Osaka, stopping on the way at Fushimi Inari to glimpse the red torii gates. Continue to Nara, Japan’s former imperial capital, and meet the friendly bowing deer. Take in the Todaiji Temple, the world’s largest wooden structure and home to Japan’s largest Buddha. BL | The St. Regis Osaka

**Day 11: Osaka.** Step back in time at Osaka Castle. The surrounding garden and moats make the castle one of the must-see places in the city. Later this afternoon, meet a local foodie to delve into Osaka’s world-famous culinary scene on a roving degustation finished off with sushi and local beers. BD | The St. Regis Osaka

**Day 12: Depart Osaka.** Bid sayonara and transfer to the airport. B

**JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS**

- Explore Tokyo’s enthralling world of temples and haute cuisine
- Watch sumo giants practice their ancient skills in a traditional sumo heya
- Meet the ama, incredible women free-divers who keep alive the 3,000-year-old art of pearl fishing
- Unveil the secrets of Japan’s exquisite Geisha during an evening dining experience
- Learn from a teishu master in a traditional tea ceremony

**HIROSHIMA – PRIVATE EXTENSION**

3 DAYS FROM $3,990 PER PERSON TWIN

It may be famous for its tragic history, but Hiroshima offers up a distinctly different first impression. Like a phoenix risen from the ashes, this now bustling city vibrates with a laid-back and welcoming attitude. In Hiroshima, you will encounter wide and colourful streets, filled with fine-dining options, inviting bars and cafes, delectable street snacks and an incredibly friendly local culture. The island of Miyajima is included, whose giant torii gate is one of Japan’s most iconic sights. Please visit our website for more information.

1300 851 800 | ABERCROMBIEKENT.COM.AU
JAPAN
LIMITED EDITION
SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

Pottery master studio visit, Kanazawa

Entrance to Meiji-Jingu Temple, Tokyo

Traditional tea ceremony

Fushimi Inari Shrine, Kyoto

Traditional houses in Shirakawago
CULTURE & CUSTOMS OF JAPAN

11 DAYS – LIMITED EDITION SMALL GROUP JOURNEY
TOKYO – KANAZAWA – KYOTO – TOKYO


PRICE: FROM $16,795 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FROM $6,470.

Discover this country of astonishing contrasts when you experience some of its most fascinating customs first hand. Walk the scenic Philosopher’s Path in Kyoto, try your hand at sushi making and see some important Shinto shrines. Journeys depart spring and autumn when the countryside is at its most breathtaking with visits to impressive gardens, ancient samurai villas and mountain villages.

Day 1: Arrive Tokyo. Welcome to the Land of the Rising Sun. Soak up ultra-modern Tokyo from your hotel which is just steps from the Ginza, Tokyo’s exclusive shopping and entertainment area. Conrad Tokyo

Day 2: Tokyo. Meet your host for a briefing on the adventure ahead before heading out to explore. First up, the old geisha district of Asakusa and the 7th century Sensoji Temple. Take part in a private sushi making class and lunch before visiting Meiji Jingu, Tokyo’s most famous shrine. Time to explore Omotesando, Tokyo’s Champs-Elysées, and perhaps a spot of shopping. BLD | Conrad Tokyo

Day 3: Tokyo. Stroll through the East Gardens of the Imperial Palace before visiting the Samurai Museum, where you learn about the customs of this elite-warrior class. After lunch, enjoy a kabuki performance in the Ginza. BL | Conrad Tokyo

Day 4: Tokyo – Kanazawa. Travel by high-speed train to Kanazawa where you tour the Museum of Contemporary Art, known for its modern architecture and progressive exhibits. After lunch, visit the exclusive studio of a local pottery master. BL | ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel

Day 5: Kanazawa. Start today with a visit to the Seisonkaku Villa, an elegant samurai residence. Afterwards, take in the stunning Kenroku-en gardens, ranked in the top three in Japan and breathtaking in any season. This afternoon, visit the former samurai house in Nagamachi and stroll around the Higashi-Chayamachi district, known for its tea houses and geisha. BL | ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel

Day 6: Kanazawa. Head into the mountains to Shirakawago, a UNESCO World Heritage Listed collection of traditional gassho-zukuri farmhouses. BL | ANA Crowne Plaza Hotel

Day 7: Kanazawa – Kyoto. Travel by high-speed train to Kyoto and your lavish hotel. In the early evening, visit the picture perfect Kodaiji Temple and its extraordinary garden. Tonight, witness a special performance by beautiful and elegant maiko (apprentice geisha) with kaiseki ryori, a traditional multi-course meal. BLD | Four Seasons Kyoto

Day 8: Kyoto. Focus your lenses at the 8th century Fushimi Inari shrine, one of the most photogenic sites in Japan. Take a walk uphill through dazzling arcades of red torii gates past smaller shrines. Afterwards, visit a sake museum and brewery, with tasting included. After lunch, tour the Ginkakuji, a Zen temple in the mountains, admiring the Silver Pavilion, a beautiful moss garden and a unique dry sand garden. Walk around the grounds and along the Philosopher’s Path before a temple tea ceremony. BL | Four Seasons Kyoto

Day 9: Kyoto. Explore another of Kyoto’s most famous landmarks this morning – the Golden Pavilion. Built as a retirement villa for the shogun, it became a Buddhist temple after his death and is today one of the city’s most famous. Next, travel by rickshaw to Nonomiya Shrine with time to wander through the bamboo forest to the 14th century World Heritage listed Tenryuji Temple which boasts one of the finest gardens in Kyoto. After lunch at the temple, a stirring taiko (traditional Japanese drum) performance is scheduled. BL | Four Seasons Kyoto

Day 10: Kyoto – Tokyo. Return to Tokyo by bullet train and to your hotel in time for tonight’s farewell dinner. BLD | Conrad Tokyo

Day 11: Depart Tokyo. Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

Japanese sashimi
JAPAN
LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

A deer at Kasuga Grand Shrine, Nara

Kinkakuji Temple’s Golden Pavilion, Kyoto

Gôra Kadan, Hakone

Traditional tea ceremony, Kyoto

Vibrant streets of Tokyo

A deer at Kasuga Grand Shrine, Nara

Gôra Kadan, Hakone

Traditional tea ceremony, Kyoto

1300 851 800 | ABERCROMBIEKENT.COM.AU
Day 1: Arrive Tokyo. Arrive into the Japanese capital and transfer to your hotel. The Ritz Carlton, Tokyo

Day 2: Tokyo. After a welcome briefing, proceed to the bustling Tsukiji Fish Market. Continue to Shitamachi Museum and then Asakusa Kannon Temple, pausing in the tiny shops nearby. Finish with a photo stop at the Imperial Palace Plaza. Tonight, join fellow guests for a welcome dinner. BLD | The Ritz Carlton, Tokyo

Day 3: Tokyo. Today, start at the Samurai Museum, where you learn about the customs of this elite-warrior class. Then, pass by Shibuya Crossing, Tokyo’s answer to Times Square, before lunch at a local restaurant. Explore the vibrant Harajuku district, where the city’s youth gather, and stroll down Omotesando Street, Tokyo’s Champs-Elysées. BL | The Ritz Carlton, Tokyo

Day 4: Tokyo – Hakone. Travel to Hakone, a popular hot-spring destination, and view the forested slopes of Hakone National Park. After lunch at a local restaurant, stroll the grassy hillsides admiring the impressive contemporary sculptures and artwork on display. Tonight, enjoy traditional Japanese cuisine at your top-rated ryokan (traditional inn). BLD | Gôra Kadan

Day 5: Hakone – Osaka. Visit the Okada Museum of Art to view its stunning collection of paintings, ceramics, lacquerware and bronzes from Japan, Korea and China. Then, ride like a local by bullet train to Osaka, Japan’s undisputed culinary capital. This evening, set out on a foodie tour sampling dishes from a variety of creative restaurants. BL | St. Regis, Osaka

Day 6: Osaka. Travel to Nara, Japan’s first capital, to visit Todai-ji, a temple complex and UNESCO World Heritage Site that contains the country’s largest bronze Buddha statue. Proceed to Nara Park, home to hundreds of deer, venerated here as divine spirits. Visit the celebrated Kasuga Taisha Shrine and experience a Shinto ceremony. After lunch, proceed to the Kehaya-za Sumo Pavilion for a demonstration of this fabled Japanese sport. BLD | St. Regis, Osaka

Day 7: Osaka – Kyoto. Early this morning, contemplate the iconic Zen rock garden at Ryoan-ji and discover the glittering Kinkaku-ji Temple (Golden Pavilion) – covered with gold leaf and surrounded by lush green gardens. After a traditional bento box lunch, explore the Arashiyama neighbourhood, including the garden of Tenryu-ji Temple. Later, bask in the magical atmosphere of Arashiyama Bamboo Grove. BL | Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto

Day 8: Kyoto. Visit Shogunzaka Temple for stunning views of Kyoto, and then continue to the home and studio of the late Kawai Kanjiro, one of Kyoto’s most famous potters. Proceed to a temple, where you experience the art of the tea ceremony. Tonight, savour traditional Japanese cuisine while an attending geiko (as a geisha is known in Kyoto) and maiko (apprentice geisha) dance, sing, pour sake and converse about their lives. BD | Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto

Day 9: Depart Kyoto. After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home, or begin a post-tour extension to Hiroshima. B

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

• Experience the distinctive culture and history of Japan, from fast-paced, neon-lit Tokyo to serene, traditional Kyoto
• Ride like a local on a bullet train past majestic Mount Fuji
• Stay at the exclusive Gôra Kadan ryokan
• Capture the spirit of Japan with the art of the tea ceremony
• Savour Kyoto’s unique cuisine and traditions during an exclusive Shabushabu dinner, with entertainment by a geiko and a maiko

Please visit our website for more information.
JAPAN & SOUTH KOREA
LUXURY EXPEDITION CRUISE

Enjoying sundowners on board Floating Torii Gate, Itsukushima

Geisha, Kyoto

Matsue Castle

Daisho In Temple, Miyajima Island, Hiroshima

Floating Torii Gate, Itsukushima

118 1300 851 800  |  ABERCROMBIEKENT.COM.AU
WONDERS OF JAPAN
14 DAYS – LUXURY EXPEDITION CRUISE
PRICE: FROM $25,325 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE. SINGLE SUPPLEMENT FROM $18,995.
Discover Japan in a way only possible by small ship, visiting unique ports and rarely seen off-the-beaten-path wilderness areas and unpacking only once. Cruise aboard luxurious, exclusively chartered ‘Le Soleal,’ with no more than 199 guests for optimal comfort. Gain incomparable insight into Japan as you travel in the company of A&K’s award-winning Expedition team, local experts and guides on a wide array of included shore excursions.

Day 1: Arrive Osaka, Japan. Arrival transfer to your tranquil Kyoto hotel with the rest of the day at leisure. Hyatt Regency Kyoto

Day 2: Kyoto. Choose your excursion: an enlightening tour of Kyoto including the Golden Pavilion and the Heian Shrine. Or, visit historic Nara, the first Japanese capital. Or to a tea factory for a traditional tea ceremony. An evening welcome reception is planned tonight. BLD | Hyatt Regency Kyoto

Day 3: Osaka. A morning at leisure or join a guided temple tour. After lunch, transfer to Osaka, where you board luxurious ‘Le Soleal,’ your home for the next 11 nights. BLD | ‘Le Soleal’

Day 4: Takamatsu. Explore your way. Immerse yourself in art and architecture at Naoshima Island with visits to the Chichu Art Museum and Benesse House. Or, board a high-speed boat to Shodo Island, the heart of Japan’s olive-growing industry for a full-day tour. Or visit one of Japan’s finest gardens and attend a hands-on udon noodle-making demonstration. BLD | ‘Le Soleal’

Day 5: Hiroshima. Arrive in Hiroshima, where options include the castle, the Peace Park and Museum, Miyajima Island and Mount Misen. BLD | ‘Le Soleal’

Day 6: Karatsu. Arrive at Karatsu, an early trading post. Visit the castle and Exhibition Hall, which houses the floats and artefacts for the annual Karatsu Kunchi autumn festival. You may also visit a puppet theatre and a ceramic studio. Alternatively, meet green tea farmers in the Kitahata Shige region. BLD | ‘Le Soleal’

Day 7: Gyeongju, South Korea. Disembark and spend a full day exploring the ancient capital of the Shilla Dynasty. Witness excavated monuments, temples, tombs and pagodas, then unearth the treasures of the National Museum. Enjoy a lunch of Korean delicacies and witness a traditional dance performance. Alternately, join a special visit to the Hyundai Motor factory. BLD | ‘Le Soleal’

Day 8: Matsue, Japan. Disembark and visit Matsu, its historic wooden castle and the surrounding countryside, pausing at the Peonies Village to wander through its picturesque garden. Alternately, visit the Adachi Museum of Art and Yakumo-mura village to learn about the art of Japanese papermaking. BLD | ‘Le Soleal’

Days 9-10: Kanazawa. Explore the cobbledstone streets of thriving art centre Kanazawa, known for its Kutani-style pottery and gold-leaf workmanship. Perhaps see traditional houses, museums and galleries, and the Higashi Chaia geisha district. Or, hike Kakusenkei Gorge and experience a local onsen. Or wander through Omicho Market. BLD | ‘Le Soleal’

Day 11: Sado-Ga-Shima. Travel off the beaten path and arrive at Sado Island, with its rice paddies; bamboo groves; and dramatic, surf-pounded seacoasts. Take a nature excursion to Ogi Peninsula and its lighthouse, or a relaxing Taraihime tubing-boat tour. Later, an exclusive, private performance by Kodo taiko drummers. BLD | ‘Le Soleal’

Day 12: Noshiro. Head to Towada-Hachimantai National Park, passing the panoramic mountain plateau region of Hachimantai, en route. Pause at the Great Drum House then hike or take a boat ride at the ancient caldera of Lake Towada. Alternately, choose a trek to Juniko Lake with an A&K naturalist. BLD | ‘Le Soleal’

Day 13: Otaru. Arrive in Hokkaido, Japan’s northernmost island, and disembark in Otaru, a picturesque city known for its canal, well-preserved architecture, handicrafts, sake distilleries and stunning views of Mount Tengu. Choose from a variety of tour options. BLD | ‘Le Soleal’

Day 14: Depart Sapporo. Disembark and transfer to the airport for your onward flight. B

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS
• Spend two nights in culture-rich Kyoto
• Visit Gyeongju, South Korea, ancient dynastic capital and UNESCO World Heritage Site
• Reflect on Japan’s turbulent history and miraculous resurgence at Hiroshima
• Appreciate incomparable art experiences at the Chichu Art Museum, O’Hara Museum of Art and the Adachi Museum of Art
• Witness a private performance by the world-renowned Kodo taiko drummers

ENHANCE YOUR JOURNEY
TOKYO POST-TOUR EXTENSION
4 DAYS FROM $5,325 PER PERSON TWIN
Admire the many contrasts of Japan’s capital from its neon-lit shopping streets and ultra-modern skyscrapers to its ancient Shinto shrines and bonsai art. Visit the Tsukiji Outer Fish Market and Meiji Jingu shrine or the Hakone ropeway. Cruise Lake Ashi and admire the breathtaking scenery and visit the Asakusa District for Tokyo’s oldest temple and the Edo Tokyo Museum. Please visit our website for more information.

1300 851 800 | ABERCROMBIEKENT.COM.AU
Aman Resorts’ second hotel in Japan is a hot-spring sanctuary located on Ago Bay on the Shima Peninsula on the island of Honshu. There are 24 suites and two villas, each with its own private onsen and a terrace with views of the bay. The resort interiors are typically Aman — clean lines, East-meets-West styling and natural materials in abundance. The restaurant impresses with fresh seafood dishes, as well as the renowned Matsusaka wagyu beef; a close rival to the popular Kobe. The holistic Aman Spa includes an outdoor thermal spring and two onsen bathing pavilions, a watsu pool, four treatment suites and a fitness centre.

Melding state-of-the-art nautical technology, fluid lines and a modern, natural wood-accented interior, exclusively chartered Le Soleal has a limited guest capacity of 199 on A&K expeditions with the finest Expedition team, all-balcony staterooms and suites and sumptuous private spaces. Leisure facilities include an outdoor heated pool, panoramic observation areas and a theatre that hosts immersive lectures and entertainment. The spacious marina gives easy access for regular Zodiac excursions and there are two restaurants, a salon, spa and fitness centre.

A member of The Leading Hotels of the World, the spectacular Palace Hotel in Tokyo with its excellent location is the perfect base to explore this vibrant city. Most of the spacious rooms and suites have balconies overlooking the Imperial Palace and Garden. Guest rooms are contemporary and spacious with an airy palette of white and green and walls of glass around the bathroom. It is home to the first Evian spa in Japan where ‘health through water’ is promoted. The hotel’s dining outlets offer quintessential French, Japanese and Chinese cuisine. There is also an outside terrace, and a fitness centre and swimming pool.

The Four Seasons has been designed around a beautiful 800-year old ikeniwa, or pond garden, and is just 15 minutes’ drive from the famous Gion Geisha District. The spacious guest rooms blend refined, modern aesthetics with the creations of Japanese artisans — including washi-paper lamps, fusuma screens and urushi lacquerware. The hotel’s eclectic mix of restaurants, lounges and bars will satisfy even the most discerning foodies. The peaceful Four Seasons’ spa offers an extensive treatment list, including their authentic and energising Sake Bath. Two saunas, steam rooms, whirlpools and a contemporary swimming pool are also at guests’ disposal.

Our relationships with only the finest properties let you choose your accommodation with confidence. Below are some of our preferred options for Japan, or please contact your travel specialist to discuss other recommendations.

**AMANEMU | ISE SHIMA PENINSULA**

Aman Resorts’ second hotel in Japan is a hot-spring sanctuary located on Ago Bay on the Shima Peninsula on the island of Honshu. There are 24 suites and two villas, each with its own private onsen and a terrace with views of the bay. The resort interiors are typically Aman – clean lines, East-meets-West styling and natural materials in abundance. The restaurant impresses with fresh seafood dishes, as well as the renowned Matsusaka wagyu beef; a close rival to the popular Kobe. The holistic Aman Spa includes an outdoor thermal spring and two onsen bathing pavilions, a watsu pool, four treatment suites and a fitness centre.

**FOUR SEASONS HOTEL | KYOTO**

The Four Seasons has been designed around a beautiful 800-year old ikeniwa, or pond garden, and is just 15 minutes’ drive from the famous Gion Geisha District. The spacious guest rooms blend refined, modern aesthetics with the creations of Japanese artisans — including washi-paper lamps, fusuma screens and urushi lacquerware. The hotel’s eclectic mix of restaurants, lounges and bars will satisfy even the most discerning foodies. The peaceful Four Seasons’ spa offers an extensive treatment list, including their authentic and energising Sake Bath. Two saunas, steam rooms, whirlpools and a contemporary swimming pool are also at guests’ disposal.

**LE SOLEAL | CRUISE SHIP**

Melding state-of-the-art nautical technology, fluid lines and a modern, natural wood-accented interior, exclusively chartered Le Soleal has a limited guest capacity of 199 on A&K expeditions with the finest Expedition team, all-balcony staterooms and suites and sumptuous private spaces. Leisure facilities include an outdoor heated pool, panoramic observation areas and a theatre that hosts immersive lectures and entertainment. The spacious marina gives easy access for regular Zodiac excursions and there are two restaurants, a salon, spa and fitness centre.
The following terms & conditions apply to Private Journeys. For specific terms relating to other journey styles please refer to our website.

1. Definitions

“A&K” means Abercrombie & Kent (Australia) Pty Ltd ACN 005 422 999

“AACL” means the Australian Consumer Law Schedule to the Competition and Consumer Act.

“Conditions” means these Terms and Conditions.

“Contract” means any agreement for the provision of Travel Arrangements or Services by A&K to the Customer.

“Customer” means a person, jointly or severally, if more than one, acquiring Travel Arrangements and Services from A&K.

“Departure Date” means the date scheduled for the Customer to depart at the start of the Travel Arrangements.

“GST” has the definition given in A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999 (“Act”) or any amending legislation, and includes any similar value-added or consumption tax.

“Material Alteration” means a material change to the Travel Arrangements as determined at A&K’s sole discretion.

“Products” means individual components of Travel Arrangements, such as accommodation, meals, transport, cruises and tours.

“Services” means the booking and payment services provided by A&K in relation to Travel Arrangements.

“Suppliers” means the third parties that are responsible for providing the individual Products.

“Tax Invoice” means a tax invoice which complies with the definition contained in section 29 - 70 of the Act or any amending legislation.

“Travel Arrangements” means the travel arrangements made by A&K including all Products.

2. Basis of Contract

2.1 The Conditions apply exclusively to every contract for Services by A&K to the Customer and cannot be varied or supplanted by any other condition unless expressly accepted in writing by A&K.

2.2 Acceptance: Payment of a deposit indicates the Customer’s acceptance of the Conditions.

2.3 Different Products may have specific terms and conditions, deposit requirements and cancellation charges applicable to the Product. These will be communicated during the quoting and booking process.

3. Booking Your Holiday

3.1 Quotes – will be provided in relation to a price for the Travel Arrangements. The quote is valid for a period of 7 days.

3.2 Deposit – a deposit of 25% of the total booking cost or $1,000 per person (whichever is the higher amount) and full names of all Customers as per passport are required to secure the booking.

3.3 There may be an additional deposit depending on the policies of the Supplier of Products being booked. Any additional deposits will be advised at time of booking.

3.4 Booking requests within 90 days before the Departure Date must be accompanied by full payment and may be subject to an urgent processing fee.

3.5 A minimum stay of 3 nights of Travel Arrangements is required for all bookings.

4. Price Policy

4.1 Prices are valid for travel arrangements made and travelling in the period until 31 December 2019. All prices are per person in Australian Dollars unless otherwise specified. Prices shown are indicative only. Prices do vary across date ranges, are subject to availability and to change due to factors including currency exchange rate fluctuations, fuel levies, tax changes or any other changes in connection with the Travel Arrangements. Please contact A&K for best available prices for your preferred travel dates. Prices are subject to the quote provided.

4.2 Travel Arrangement prices are quoted for the entire package and itemised component costs cannot be given.

4.3 Prices may be based on Products being booked for all Customers in the Booking, and accordingly Customers must travel together throughout the Travel Arrangements, unless variations are explicitly agreed.

4.4 Surcharge – the price of the Travel Arrangements is subject to the possibility of surcharges. Surcharges may be incurred (without limitation) in connection with: currency exchange rates, increases in Product prices, fuel levies, scheduled airfares, hotel, cruise and ground transportation charges, game park entrance fees and any other increases in connection with the Travel Arrangements.

4.5 Where there is any change in the costs incurred by A&K providing the Services, A&K may vary its price to account for such change by notifying the Customer, whether or not the Customer has made full payment.

4.6 Changes in the Australian Dollar – the financial commitments A&K undertakes in order to offer the prices mean that prices cannot be reduced or refunded if the Australian dollar strengthens.

4.7 Products not Utilised – no refunds are made in respect of Products booked but not utilised, for example, flights, accommodation, meals and sightseeing excursions.

4.8 Handcrafted Luxury Private Journey inclusions - Accommodation as detailed on a double/twin share basis, private airport meet & greet on arrival and private transfers to and from airports throughout; transport by private air-conditioned vehicle (except for shared excursions from safari camps/lodges, cruise vessels or trains when vintage or jeep style vehicles are used); bottled water during transfers and touring; daily breakfasts and selected meals as specified in the itinerary; services of an English-speaking guide; park and entrance fees for all sightseeing and included activities; internal flights (in economy class) only if specified as included in the itinerary; round-the-clock support through A&K’s extensive network. Some Luxury Private Journeys may have additional inclusions that will be specified in detail at time of quoting or booking.

4.9 Handcrafted Luxury Private Journey exclusions - International airlines, unless otherwise noted, costs associated with obtaining passports or entry visas; reciprocity and other border fees; insurance coverage of personal loss, injury, illness or damages incurred during your trip; items of a purely personal nature such as drinks, laundry, dry cleaning, internet, fax or phone charges; transfers, sightseeing or meals not specified in itinerary; excess baggage charges; airport departure taxes, unless otherwise noted, gratuities unless expressly included.

4.10 Air Transportation - International airfare (to the journey starting point and from the ending point) is not included in programme pricing. Some journeys include internal flights as specified in the itinerary. All internal air is based on economy class seating, unless specified, and is 100% non-refundable at time of payment (some exceptions may apply). Where internal air flights have high purchase conditions, payment for those Products is required in order to book them. All international and internal air prices are subject to change until final payment has been received by A&K. Flight confirmation is based on availability. Air reservations cannot be confirmed and ticketed until full passport details and payment for those Products are received by A&K.

All air carriers are independent contractors and are not owned, managed, controlled or operated by A&K. Your airline ticket constitutes a contract between yourself and the airlines (and not A&K), even if purchased through A&K. A&K is not liable for, and does not assume responsibility or accept claims with regard to, seat assignments, name changes, schedule changes, flight changes and/or cancellations. Should you change or cancel your air transportation arrangements before or after your travel begins, all airline change and cancellation fees will apply.

4.11 Prices quoted include GST. Prices for the supply of the Travel Arrangements and the Services exclude any other taxes, duties or impacts imposed on or in relation to the Travel Arrangements and the Services in Australia or overseas. The Customer is liable to pay any amount of GST imposed on any Product.

5. Payment

5.1 Final Payment – unless otherwise agreed in writing the final payment must be received by A&K 90 days prior to the Departure Date.

5.2 Where bookings are made less than 90 days before the Departure Date, full payment must be made at the time of the booking.

5.3 If you pay A&K by credit card a surcharge will be added to the total price. The current surcharge for all credit cards is 1.5% of the total price.

6. Amendments

6.1 A&K will endeavour to assist if the Customer requests an amendment to the Travel Arrangement booking up to 90 days prior to the Departure Date subject to the following:

a) Amendment Charge - fees apply to any Customer requesting a change to a confirmed booking.

b) Additional Charges - all other expenses incurred by A&K may also be payable by the Customer at A&K’s discretion.

c) Any changes arising from a request for an amendment are payable by the Customer whether or not A&K is successful in confirming the requested amendment.

d) Late Amend - amendments made by the Customer within 90 days of the Departure Date are treated as cancellations and re-bookings. Cancellation charges apply as detailed below.

7. Cancellations by the Customer

7.1 The Customer must give A&K notice if it intends to cancel any Travel Arrangements.

7.2 Charges – the following charges, excluding international airfares, are payable by the Customer in accordance with the number of days prior to the Departure Date following notice being received by A&K of cancellation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days prior to Departure Date</th>
<th>Percentage of Travel Arrangements Price Payable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>91 days or more</td>
<td>$1,000 per person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 - 46 days prior</td>
<td>50% cancellation fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 - 0 days prior</td>
<td>100% cancellation fee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.3 Additional Charges - Prior to full payment being received, the Customer may incur further cancellation charges from some Suppliers, including international flight providers. These charges can vary up to the amount paid.

8. Cancellations and Material Alteration by A&K

8.1 A&K may treat a booking as cancelled and levy cancellation charges if the Customer does not pay the balance of the Travel Arrangements price at 90 days prior to the Departure Date.

8.2 Force Majeure – A&K may, at its sole option, where circumstances outside of its control affect the provision of Travel Arrangements (such as food, fire, act of God, war or threat of war, physical unrest, riots, civil disturbances, terrorist activities - threatened or actual, strikes, port or airport closure, technical problems with transport, alteration or cancellation of scheduled travel services) cancel scheduled Travel Arrangements at any time at A&K’s sole and absolute discretion.
a) offer the Customer alternative Travel Arrangements or Products of comparable standard as may be appropriate in the circumstances; or
b) if alternative Travel Arrangements or Products are not offered by A&K, A&K will make a prompt proportional (taking into account the extent of the Travel Arrangements that have been provided or arranged) refund of monies paid by the Customer.

8.3 A&K may charge a reasonable fee to cover the administration costs associated with providing alternative Travel Arrangements or Products.

8.4 A&K reserves the right to modify programme itineraries, including arranged sightseeing, and substitute accommodations, including vessels and trains, at any time due to unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond A&K’s control. Every effort will be made to operate itineraries as planned, but alterations may occur after the final documents have been provided to the Customer or after Travel Arrangements have commenced.

8.5 Material Alteration - if a Material Alteration becomes necessary within 90 days of the Departure Date for any reason other than the circumstances described in clause 8.2 A&K will endeavour to offer comparable Products or a full refund of all monies paid by the Customer.

9. Obligations and Liability

9.1 Booking Agent - A&K acts as a booking agent for the Suppliers of Products and accepts no liability for any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay or irregularity that may arise to any Customer or any party resulting from the Customer’s or third party’s use of the Products, unless recoverable from A&K on the failure of a statutory guarantee under the ACL. A&K makes reasonable enquiries to determine that Suppliers provide appropriate Products, but A&K is not responsible for the Products or their standard.

9.2 Except as the Conditions specifically state, the Agreement does not include by implication any other term, condition or warranty in respect of the quality, merchantability, acceptability, fitness for purpose, condition, description, specification or performance of the Travel Arrangements or Services or any contractual remedy for their failure.

9.3 Nothing in these Terms restricts, limits or modifies the Customer’s rights or remedies as a consumer against A&K for failure of a statutory guarantee under the ACL.

9.4 Loss - A&K is not liable for and accepts no responsibility for any direct or indirect loss, financial loss, consequential loss, loss of enjoyment, pain and suffering, damage, injury, accident delay or irregularity occasioned to the Customer, other than if the Customer is a consumer, then to the extent the loss was reasonably foreseeable.

9.5 Nothing in the Conditions is to be interpreted as excluding, restricting or modifying the application of any relevant State or Federal legislation which cannot be excluded, restricted or modified.

9.6 Visa Requirements - It is the Customer’s responsibility to ensure that it has valid passports, visas and permits which meet the immigration and governmental requirements of the country of travel.

9.7 The Customer agrees and acknowledges that A&K will not be liable for any loss or damage incurred by the Customer due to the Customer’s failure to obtain all valid passports, visas, permits or any other governmental requirements of the countries of transit or travel.

9.8 Medical Conditions - The Customer must notify A&K of any pre-existing medical condition that might reasonably be expected to affect the Travel Arrangements. The Customer agrees and acknowledges that A&K will not be liable for any loss or damage incurred by the Customer as a result of any pre-existing medical condition or health issue of the Customer that may preclude, delay, affect or interfere with the Travel Arrangements.

9.9 Health Issues - It is the Customer’s sole responsibility to
a) obtain any vaccinations or take any other health precautions applicable to the country of travel;
b) take all steps reasonably necessary (including, without limitation, the consultation of appropriate medical professionals) to identify whether they have any pre-existing medical conditions or health issues (whether known or unknown) that may preclude, delay, affect or interfere with the Travel Arrangements.

9.10 A&K strongly recommends that the Customer insure themselves against loss of deposit, cancellation charges, medical expenses and loss of personal possessions, and any other foreseeable loss or expense.

9.11 The Customer acknowledges and accepts that different places, countries, facilities, vehicles and Suppliers may have lower standards of safety, labelling, warnings and precautions than in Australia. The Customer is responsible for maintaining personal diligence and safety notwithstanding the level of standards. A&K is not liable for any loss, damage, injury or death that could be avoided if the Australian standards were to apply.

10. Notice

10.1 A notice by the Customer must be in writing, and may be delivered by hand, sent by prepaid mail, sent by facsimile or sent by electronic means such as e-mail to the address or number specified.

10.2 A notice is treated as given to A&K, when:
   a) if hand delivered, when delivered;
   b) if sent by prepaid mail, when received or within 48 hours after posting, whichever is the sooner;
   c) if sent by email or facsimile, on confirmation of successful transmission.

11. Governing Law

11.1 These Conditions are governed by and are to be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Victoria and Australia.

11.2 Each party irrevocably and unconditionally submits to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts and Tribunal of Victoria and Courts entitled to hear appeals from those Courts and Tribunals.

12. Privacy Information

12.1 Any personal information that A&K obtains from the Customer, or about the Customer from its representative, is necessary for A&K’s business purposes or providing the Customer with A&K’s Travel Arrangements, Products and Services, and may be used in answering any queries the Customer may have, considering the Customer’s application for credit or to become a Customer, performing internal administration and operations, developing, improving and marketing A&K’s products and services, and related purposes.

12.2 A&K’s Privacy Policy details why A&K collects this personal information, who A&K may disclose it to (including whether A&K is likely to disclose it to overseas recipients), and the main consequences (if any) if A&K does not collect the personal information of the Customer. A&K’s Privacy Policy also contains information about how the Customer may seek access to, or correction of, the personal information held about the Customer, and A&K’s complaint resolution procedures.

12.3 A&K will not disclose any personal information to any other party without the consent of the Customer except to the Suppliers, a related entity or adviser of A&K or where A&K is otherwise required by law to do so.

12.4 A&K’s Privacy Policy is available at www.abercrombiekent.com.au/privacy-statement or by request to A&K by phoning +61 3 9536 1800 or via email at privacy@abercrombiekent.com.au.

13. Consent for cross-border disclosures

13.1 By making a booking, the Customer acknowledges and consents that A&K will not, as would otherwise be required, be obliged to take steps to ensure that an overseas recipient of Customer Information complies with the Australian Privacy Principles.
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