



INDIA

DECCAN ODYSSEY: SPLENDOURS OF NORTHERN INDIA (SHIMLA & AMRITSAR) (TOUR CODE: 14215)

STARTS AND ENDS

Delhi to
Mumbai

TRAVEL PERIODS

17 Feb 2025

EXPERIENCE

Luxury
Cultural
Rail

TRAVEL STYLE

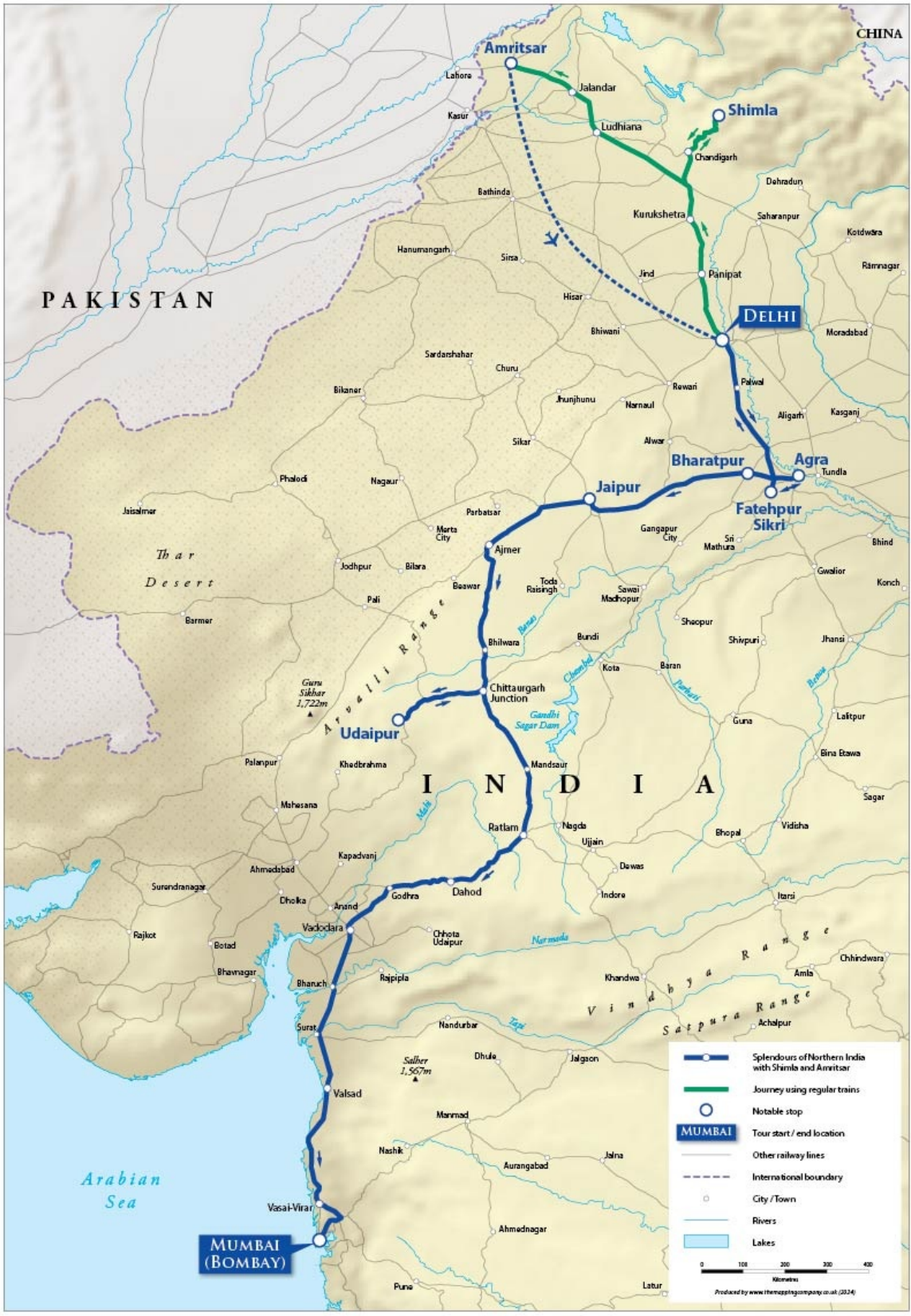
Rail Holiday Packages

Experience the ultimate luxury journey through Northern India, from Delhi's vibrant streets to Shimla's serene hills, and Amritsar's rich culture. Discover Jaipur's grand palaces, Udaipur's tranquil lakes, and the iconic Taj Mahal.

Highlights

- The UNESCO-honoured Elephanta cave complex, dedicated to Lord Shiva
- An exclusive royal dining experience at the Rambagh Palace Hotel, Jaipur
- A private alfresco breakfast overlooking the Taj Mahal
- Travel on the iconic UNESCO honoured 'Toy Train', through the picturesque Shivalik hills
- Experience a sacred Palki ceremony at the Golden Temple, Amritsar

Embark on the Splendours of Northern India, featuring an exclusive Shimla and Amritsar pre-train land extension. Journey from Delhi's lively streets to Shimla's tranquil beauty, Amritsar's spiritual charm to Agra's regal splendour, Jaipur's vibrant culture to Udaipur's serene lakes, and Mumbai's dynamic atmosphere. Explore iconic sites like Fatehpur Sikri, Agra Fort, and the Taj Mahal while enjoying luxurious accommodations and curated experiences. This is an extraordinary exploration of India's diverse landscapes, rich heritage and timeless allure on this magical voyage.



INCLUSIONS

- 1 night in in Taj Palace Delhi (Start of tour)
- 2 nights in Taj Swarna Amritsar
- 3 nights in Wildflower Hall, an Oberoi resort, Shimla
- 1 night in Taj Palace Delhi (mid-tour)
- 5 nights private en-suite accommodation on the Deccan Odyssey
- 2 nights in Taj Palace & Tower Hotel, Mumbai
- Freshly prepared meals on board, using the finest local ingredients
- Authentic dining experiences in local restaurants
- 13 Breakfasts, 12 Lunches, 12 Dinners
- Generous drinks allowance, including international wines with lunch and dinner
- Expertly guided off-train excursions as detailed in the itinerary
- Arrival and departure transfers
- All gratuities – on and off the train
- Experienced Tour Management team
- Luggage portage throughout the journey

ITINERARY

Day 1 Delhi

Arrival day at Delhi Airport, where you will be met and transferred to the five-star Taj Palace Hotel (or similar).
Please note: All meals today are at your own arrangements.



Day 2 Delhi Shimla

Experience the timeless charm of Shimla, the revered “Queen of Hills” and erstwhile British summer capital. Marvel at snow-

capped peaks, lush greenery, serene lakes, and the vibrant countryside, all while relishing a delightful journey aboard the Kalka-Shimla railway.

The UNESCO World Heritage acclaimed "Toy Train", is a narrow-gauge marvel winding through the picturesque Shivalik hills, offering breathtaking vistas of the Himalayas. Dating back to 1898, this historic railway, adorned with 107 tunnels and 864 bridges, once connected Shimla to the rest of India, a testament to engineering prowess.

Retire for the night at the esteemed Hotel The Oberoi Cecil, where luxury meets heritage, ensuring an unforgettable sojourn for the next three nights.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **3**

Shimla

Embark on an exhilarating journey after breakfast as you delve into the rich history of the Kalka-Shimla railway at the Balku Ram rail museum. Named in honour of the legendary Baba Bhalku, a revered saint believed to possess extraordinary engineering skills, the museum showcases rare artifacts from the railway's storied past. Marvel at the ingenuity that shaped this iconic rail track, a testament to human perseverance and innovation.

Later, immerse yourself in the heritage of Shimla with a captivating afternoon Heritage Walk. Explore the charming hill station, steeped in colonial splendour, as you visit historic landmarks such as the State Museum, Christ Church and the iconic Gaiety Theatre. Wander through the vibrant Mall, soaking in the colourful ambiance of this timeless destination.

Overnight stay in **Shimla**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 4

Shimla

Today presents an opportunity for leisure, allowing you to bask in the splendor of Shimla's natural beauty and cultural charm.

Overnight stay in **Shimla**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 5

Shimla Amritsar

This morning, guests are driven from Shimla to Ambala to board the train for Amritsar.

Amritsar, a cultural gem and spiritual nucleus of the Sikh community, awaits your exploration. Founded in the 16th century by Guru Ram Das Ji, the city's rich history is steeped in Sikh tradition and heritage. Witness the grandeur of the Golden Temple, a sacred sanctuary and architectural brilliance.

As night falls, immerse yourself in the serene ambiance of the Palki ceremony at the Golden Temple. Retire for the night to the opulent comforts of Hotel Taj Swarna for a two-night stay, where refined luxury and impeccable service await, ensuring a restful and indulgent stay.

Overnight stay in **Amritsar**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **6**

Amritsar

Following a sumptuous breakfast, indulge in a morning filled with cultural immersion as you return to the resplendent Golden Temple, a jewel in the Sikh crown. Marvel at the intricate marble sculptures, gilded spires, and opulent interiors of this sacred sanctuary, where devout pilgrims partake in purifying rituals amidst the tranquil waters that envelop it.

Venture next to the serene gardens of Jallianwala Bagh, where a solemn memorial stands as a poignant tribute to the tragic events of the 1919 massacre, a somber reminder of resilience amidst adversity.

Delve deeper into history with a visit to the Partition Museum, offering a comprehensive narrative of India's tumultuous partition in 1947. Gain insight into the human experience of this pivotal moment, from the prelude of independence to the enduring aftermath.

In the afternoon, embark on an exclusive excursion to the India-Pakistan border at Atari, where the enthralling flag-lowering ceremony unfolds. Witness the captivating spectacle as soldiers from both sides engage in a spirited display of precision and patriotism.

Overnight stay in **Amritsar**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 7

Amritsar Delhi

Today, travel by scheduled flight from Amritsar and return to Delhi where you will enjoy an overnight stay at Hotel Taj Palace.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 8

Delhi

One of the oldest cities in the world, Delhi is a bustling and vibrant city, famous for its traditional bazaars and street markets.

Today, enjoy a fascinating city tour in this pulsating metropolis - visit the Raj Ghat memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, the World Heritage Site of Humayun's Tomb, the first example of Mughal architecture in India, and the towering Indo-Islamic Qutab Minar, the tallest brick minaret in the world at 238ft (73m) which dates from 1368.

Late evening sees guests boarding the private train, *Deccan Odyssey*, for the perfect way to experience the colour, character and amazing diversity of India. Settle into your beautifully appointed private en-suite cabin and enjoy the

hospitable atmosphere of the stylish Bar Lounge Car as your rail journey begins. Tonight, enjoy a sumptuous dinner on board the train.

Overnight aboard the **Deccan Odyssey**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 9

Fatehpur Sikri & Agra Fort

After breakfast, visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Fatehpur Sikri. Known as a 'ghost city', this red sandstone town was abandoned only shortly after being built due to lack of water in 1585.

This afternoon - the journey takes you to Agra Fort, a magnificent structure that dominates the skyline and acted as the main residence for emperors of the Mughal Dynasty until 1638. Its red sandstone walls run for 2.5 km and contain many fairy-tale palaces and two beautifully preserved mosques.

Overnight stay aboard the **Deccan Odyssey**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 10 Agra

Today is dedicated to visiting the breathtaking Taj Mahal, an architectural marvel crafted entirely from white marble on the south bank of the Yamuna River. Recognised as one of the most famous buildings in the world, the Taj Mahal was completed in 1648 by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as a mausoleum for his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The construction took 22 years and involved 20,000 skilled artisans. This iconic structure stands as a timeless testament to enduring love and artistic brilliance.

The day begins early to avoid the crowds and witness the Taj Mahal at sunrise, allowing you to fully appreciate its magnificence in the soft morning light. Following the visit, enjoy breakfast (weather permitting) in the gardens of the Taj Khema hotel, offering a stunning view of the Taj Mahal in the distance.

Later, return to the Deccan Odyssey for lunch as the journey continues towards the vibrant state of Rajasthan.

Overnight stay aboard the **Deccan Odyssey**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 11 Jaipur

Arriving in the capital of Rajasthan, the 'Pink City' of Jaipur, you are immediately captivated by its rich and vibrant history. The morning begins with a visit to the Amber Fort, where you get to explore its breath-taking grandeur, including the magnificent Hall of Mirrors.

After lunch at a local restaurant, continue your journey with a tour of the Jantar Mantar Observatory, followed by a visit to the vast and imposing City Palace and the beautiful Hawa Mahal, or Palace of Winds. This exquisite yet enduring monument, constructed entirely of pink sandstone, was built in 1799 to allow royal ladies to discreetly observe everyday life. If time permits, you will explore a renowned fabric market before returning to the train for some relaxation.

In the evening, dine at the elegant Rambagh Palace Hotel, originally built in 1835 and once the residence of the Maharaja of Jaipur. The palace retains its elaborate splendour, adorned with intricately carved marble 'jalīs' or latticework, sandstone balustrades, cupolas, 'chattris' or cenotaphs, and elaborate Mughal Gardens.

Overnight stay aboard the **Deccan Odyssey**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **12** Udaipur

Spend a leisurely morning on board as the landscape and spirit of India unfolds before your eyes. Later, you will have the opportunity to listen to a talk on Indian culture before arriving at Udaipur, known as the 'City of Lakes' or 'Venice of the East'. A beguiling tapestry of breath-taking lakes and opulently majestic palaces from the Rajput era awaits your discovery.

The afternoon is spent admiring the awe-inspiring beauty of the Lake Palace. Constructed entirely of marble, it sits on its own island in the shimmering waters of Pichola Lake. Go on to visit the medieval grandeur of City Palace.

Overnight stay aboard the **Deccan Odyssey**.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



UDAIPUR CITY PALACE

Day **13 & 14** Mumbai

On Day 13, arrive in Mumbai and bid farewell to the esteemed Deccan Odyssey as guests are transferred to the luxurious

five-star Taj Mahal Palace & Tower Hotel for a lavish two-night stay. Enjoy the opulent accommodations of this flagship Taj property, offering unparalleled views of the Arabian Sea and the iconic Gateway of India, all complemented by over a century of refined hospitality. This legendary hotel, which has hosted royalty, dignitaries, and luminaries from around the world, epitomises grandeur and extravagance.

Mumbai, a vibrant metropolis rich in cultural heritage, awaits your discovery during this exclusive stay. Visit the fascinating 'Dhobi Ghats,' an open-air laundry where traditional dhobis meticulously wash and press linens, showcasing a remarkable slice of history.

The itinerary also includes a tour of Fort Bombay and Gandhi's House, a poignant museum dedicated to the legacy of this inspirational leader. Weather permitting, take a short cruise from the Gateway of India to the lush Elephanta Island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here, explore an awe-inspiring cave complex dating back to the 3rd to 5th centuries, dedicated to Lord Shiva, a revered Hindu deity.

Enjoy a delicious seafood lunch at the renowned Trishna restaurant, where you can savour culinary excellence amidst Mumbai's vibrant atmosphere. As part of the tour program, guests will also have time to independently explore Mumbai's many attractions or browse its bustling local markets

Overnight stay at the **Taj Mahal Palace & Tower Hotel, Mumbai***.

**Guests staying in Deluxe Class will be accommodated in the Tower Wing, while those in the Presidential Suite will reside in the prestigious Palace Wing.*

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 15 Mumbai

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Mumbai Airport to start your journey home.

Why not extend your stay in Mumbai to explore at your leisure? Please contact us for hotel options and rates.

Breakfast

ACCOMMODATION

Deccan Odyssey

UPGRADE AVAILABLE

To travel aboard the Deccan Odyssey is to experience the finest traditions of rail travel in a train specifically built to cater for the demands of today's most discerning traveller.

DELUXE CLASS

The Deccan Odyssey's Deluxe Class cabins provide a luxurious and comfortable experience, fully air-conditioned and designed to accommodate 2-3 guests. These elegant cabins feature either twin or double beds and come with an en-suite bathroom complete with a separate shower. Additional amenities include a hairdryer and complimentary tea, coffee, and mineral water, ensuring a refined journey aboard this private luxury train.

Room Upgrades

Presidential Suite

The Deccan Odyssey's Presidential Suite provides a luxurious stay, fully air-conditioned and designed to accommodate 2-3 guests. Each cabin features a separate sitting room and two bathrooms. Guests staying in the Presidential Suite enjoy the added luxury of a private guide and chauffeured car service at many of the destinations on the itinerary. Additionally, they benefit from complimentary drinks from the Bar Lounge Car, laundry service, and room upgrades to the next available category at the hotels included in the itinerary.

- Double bedroom
- Separate lounge / seating area with writing desk
- Additional sofa bed available in lounge
- Two en-suite bathrooms with separate shower
- Hairdryer
- DVD player and television screen
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water in cabin



Prices are dynamic based on travel dates. Please proceed to [Book Now](#) or [Contact Us](#) for details.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The Bar Lounge Car: offers a well-stocked bar offering the perfect surroundings for a quiet drink with your fellow passengers.
- There is also dedicated spa car where passengers can enjoy a traditional Ayurvedic massage; work out in the gym; visit the on board hairdressing salon; or enjoy the heat of the sauna while the train is underway. Alternatively, you can utilise the facilities in the Reception Car which has a library and reading area, and a fully-equipped business centre.
- The Deccan Odyssey includes two splendid restaurant cars, offering a wonderful variety of international cuisine. Prepared and served with the highest attention to detail, the Indian and international food offered here is to the highest culinary standard. Traditionally decorated, these beautifully designed cars offer a superb and relaxed setting in which to enjoy your meals and watch India's remarkable scenery unfold

2025 departure:

- 17 Feb - 03 Mar 2025

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing, and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.)
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package