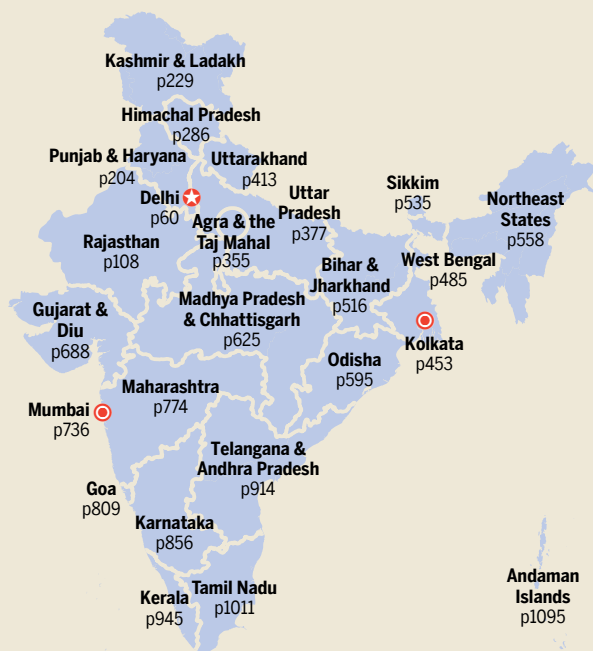




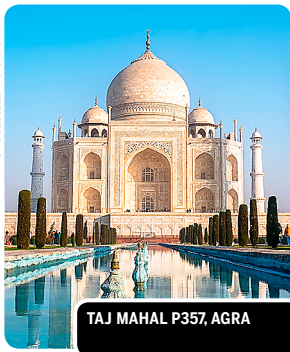
# India



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TAJ MAHAL P357, AGRA



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## India: Off the Beaten Track

### THE K3: KISHTWAR–KILLAR–KEYLONG

Dubbed the world's most dangerous road, the K3 teeters along terrifyingly narrow rock ledges high above the Chenab River in Jammu. (p283)

### KUMBHALGARH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

In dense forests in Rajasthan this wildlife sanctuary provides homes to antelope, gazelle, leopard, wolves and the occasional sloth bear. (p167)

### MONAR METEORITE CRATER

Created 50,000 years ago this huge crater in Maharashtra has a shallow green lake at its base and wilderness all around. (p791)

### DUDHSAGAR FALLS

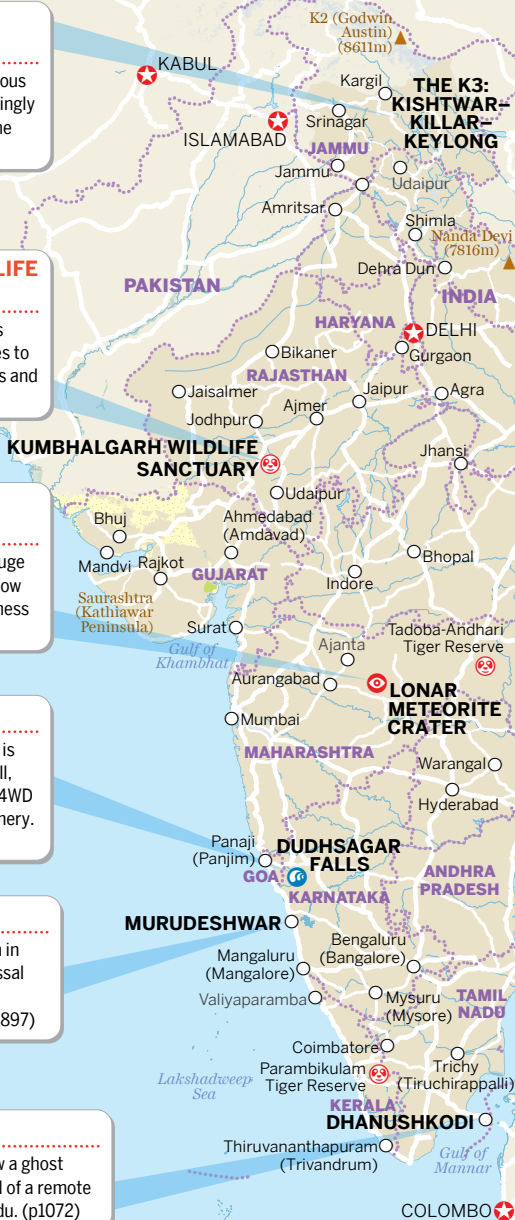
Meaning 'Sea of Milk' Dudhsagar is Goa's 300m-high, tiered waterfall, reached by a bumpy, 45-minute 4WD ride through stunning jungle scenery. (p838)

### MURUDESHWAR

This beachside pilgrimage town in Karnataka is known for its colossal seashore stature of Lord Shiva overlooking the Arabian Sea. (p897)

### DHANUSHKODI

Once a thriving port, now a ghost town standing at the end of a remote promontory in Tamil Nadu. (p1072)

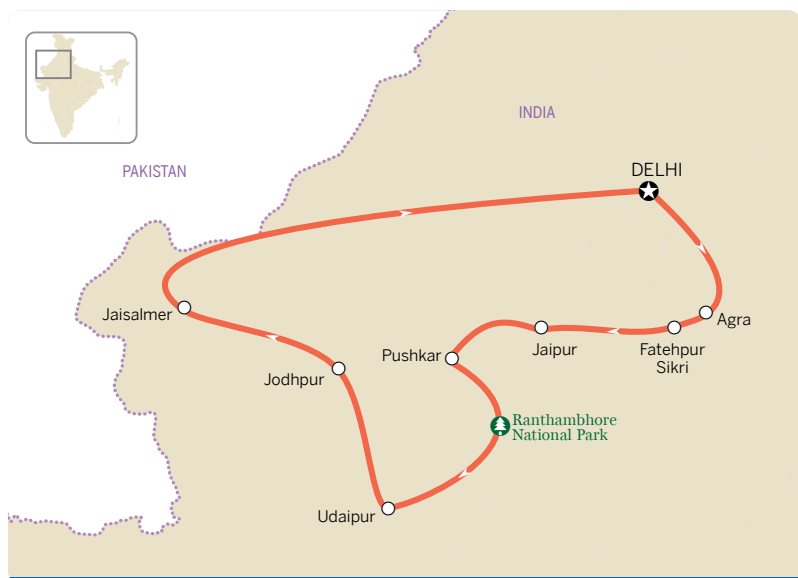




0 500 miles 1,000 km



# Itineraries



2  
WEEKS

## The Golden Triangle & the Land of the Kings

Linking Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, India's Golden Triangle combines some of India's most jaw-dropping sights. The princely splendors of Rajasthan make for a natural extension.

Kick off in **Delhi**, soaking up the sights, sounds and smells of Old Delhi. Explore its Mughal-era Red Fort and Jama Masjid, and experience living Islamic culture at the captivating Hazrat Nizam-ud-din Dargah. Next, catch a train to **Agra** and gasp at the beauty of the Taj Mahal. Explore Agra Fort and devote a day to the ghost city of **Fatehpur Sikri**. Continue on to the Pink City of **Jaipur**; don't miss the City Palace, Hawa Mahal and Amber Fort.

Return to Delhi, or travel on to **Pushkar** for a few days of chilling out around lakeside temples. Drop into **Ranthambhore National Park** to spot tigers, then roll south to elegant **Udaipur**, with its floating palace and serene lake. Next, visit magnificent hilltop Kumbhalgarh and the temple at Ranakpur, en route to **Jodhpur**; Mehrangarh fort offers the definitive view over Rajasthan's Brahmin-blue city.

Enjoy a camel trek through the dunes in fortified **Jaisalmer** before looping back to Delhi for an early-morning trip to the ruins of Qutab Minar.





6 MONTHS

## North & South

Tourist visas last six months, allowing you to mix famous highlights with detours off the established tourist grid.

Start by exploring **Delhi**, then ride the rails north to **Amritsar** to see Sikhism's glittering Golden Temple. Connect through Chandigarh to lofty **Shimla**; from this classic hill station you can roam northwest to **Dharamsala**, home of the Dalai Lama, before doubling back to adrenalin-charged **Manali**, starting point for the thrilling overland journey to rugged **Ladakh** (June to September). When you've had your fill of mountain air, head south for some yoga in **Rishikesh**, and descend to **Agra** to admire the vision-like Taj Mahal. Next, go south to **Khajuraho**, with its risqué temples, and scan the jungle for tigers in **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve**. Continue to **Varanasi** for a mesmerising boat trip along the sacred Ganges.

Roam east to **Kolkata**, bustling capital of West Bengal. Swing north as far as **Darjeeling** or **Sikkim** for sweeping Himalayan views, then drift down the coast to the temple towns of **Konark** and **Puri** in Odisha (Orissa). Continue south to **Chennai** for a big-city view of South India.

From Chennai, detour south to the temple wonders of **Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram)**, continuing to French-colonial **Puducherry (Pondicherry)**. Rumble on to **Madurai**, with its deity-encrusted temple towers. Enjoy some beach time in **Kerala** before roaming inland to nostalgic **Mysuru (Mysore)** to see how maharajas lived.

Continuing north, head to **Hampi**, where collapsed temples lie strewn among the boulders, then unwind on the sun-stroked coast of **Goa**. Wine, fine-dine and go Bollywood-crazy in **Mumbai**, then admire the glorious cave paintings and carvings at **Ajanta** and **Ellora**.

Finish with Rajasthan's triumvirate of coloured cities – pink **Jaipur**, blue **Jodhpur** and white **Udaipur**. There might just be time to detour to the fascinating temples and nature reserves of **Gujarat** before you take one last train ride to Delhi.



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### Trent Holden

**Uttarakhand** A Geelong-based writer, located just outside Melbourne, Trent has worked for Lonely Planet since 2005. He's covered 30-plus guidebooks across Asia, Africa and Australia. With a penchant for megacities, Trent's in his element when assigned to cover a nation's capital – the more chaotic the better – to unearth cool bars, art, street food and underground subculture. On the flipside he also writes books to idyllic tropical islands across Asia, in between going on safari to

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Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia and China, and the other trekking Europe's 10 most scenic long-distance trails. Bradley has also worked on guides to Mongolia, Jordan, Morocco, India and the Indian Himalaya; written for Rough Guides; contributed chapters to *Silk Road: Monks, Warriors & Merchants* and is a cowriter of Insight Guide's *Silk Road*.



### Kevin Raub

**Mumbai; Maharashtra** Atlanta native Kevin started his career as a music journalist in New York, until he ditched the rock 'n' roll lifestyle for travel writing. He has since written more than 70 Lonely Planet guides, focused mainly on Brazil, Chile, Colombia, USA, India, the Caribbean and Portugal. Kevin also contributes to a variety of travel magazines in both the USA and UK. Along the way, the self-confessed hophead is in constant search of wildly high IBUs in local beers, and continues

pounding the world's pavements with one goal in mind: membership in the Travelers' Century Club before the age of 50. His country count currently stands at 93. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram @RaubOnTheRoad.



### Sarina Singh

After finishing her business degree Sarina bought a one-way ticket to India, where she met an aspiring photographer who requested her to write a paragraph for one of his photos in the hope he could get it published. The magazine asked Singh to turn her 100 word 'caption' into a 3000 word feature, and so began her accidental writing career. After five years in India she returned to her home town of Melbourne to pursue postgraduate studies at one of Australia's top journalism universities.

Sarina has written for 50 Lonely Planet titles, including more than 10 editions of *India*; four editions of *Rajasthan* and three editions of *South India*. She has also written for dozens of other international publications such as UK's *Sunday Times* and USA's *National Geographic Traveler*. Find her on Twitter @sarina\_singh and [www.sarinasingh.com](http://www.sarinasingh.com). Sarina wrote the Plan Your Trip, Understand and Survival Guide sections.



### Iain Stewart

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*Daily Telegraph* and tweets at @iaintravel. He'll consider working anywhere there's a palm tree or two and a beach of a generally sandy persuasion. Iain lives in Brighton (UK) within firing range of the city's wonderful south-facing horizon.





### **Daniel McCrohan**

**Delhi; Punjab & Haryana** Daniel is a widely published Asia-travel expert who has written or cowritten more than 40 guidebooks for both Lonely Planet and Trailblazer. He specialises in China and India, but has also written books on Mongolia, Russia, Tibet and Bangladesh, plus numerous British walking guides. Daniel has been a guest speaker at international travel shows, and was a cohort on the television travel series *Best in China*. He speaks Chinese, adores tea and

cycles pretty much everywhere. Find out what he's up to on Twitter @danielmccrohan, or at [danielmccrohan.com](http://danielmccrohan.com).



### **Isabella Noble**

**Kerala; Andaman Islands** English-Australian on paper but Spanish at heart, Isabella has been wandering the globe since her first round-the-world trip as a one-year-old. Having grown up in a whitewashed Andalusian village, she is a Spain specialist travel journalist, but also writes extensively about India, Thailand, the UK and beyond for Lonely Planet, the Daily Telegraph and others. Isabella has cowritten Lonely Planet guides to Spain and Andalucía, and is a *Daily Telegraph* Spain expert. She

has also contributed to Lonely Planet *India, South India, Thailand, Thailand's Islands & Beaches, Southeast Asia on a Shoestring* and *Great Britain*, and written *Pocket Phuket*. Find Isabella on Twitter and Instagram @isabellamnoble.



### **John Noble**

**West Bengal; Northeast States** John has been travelling for Lonely Planet since the 1980s. The number of LP titles he's written is well into three figures, on numerous countries scattered across the globe. He's still as excited as ever about heading out to unfamiliar destinations, especially off-the-beaten-track ones. Above all, he loves mountains, from the Pyrenees to the Himalaya. See his pics on Instagram: @johnnoble11.



### **Michael Benanav**

**Tamil Nadu** Michael is a veteran traveler, writer and photographer who loves exploring places far from beaten tourist trails. He's written three non-fiction books, including *Men Of Salt: Crossing the Sahara on the Caravan of White Gold* – the true story of a 1000-mile journey with one of the world's last working camel caravans – and *Himalaya Bound: One Family's Quest to Save Their Animals & an Ancient Way of Life*, which follows a tribe of nomadic water buffalo herders into

the Indian Himalayas. He also founded Traditional Cultures Project, which documents endangered cultures around the world. When not off travelling, he can often be found hiking in the hills behind his home in northern New Mexico. To see some of his work, visit [www.michaelbenanav.com](http://www.michaelbenanav.com).



### **Stuart Butler**

**Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh; Gujarat & Diu** Stuart has been writing for Lonely Planet for a decade and during this time he's come eye to eye with gorillas in the Congolese jungles, met a man with horns on his head who could lie in fire, huffed and puffed over snow-bound Himalayan mountain passes, interviewed a king who could turn into a tree, and had his fortune told by a parrot. Oh, and he's met more than his fair share of self-proclaimed gods. He also works as a photographer and

was a finalist in both the 2015 and 2016 Travel Photographer of the Year Awards. When not on the road for Lonely Planet he lives on the beautiful beaches of Southwest France with his wife and two young children. His website is [www.stuartbutlerjournalist.com](http://www.stuartbutlerjournalist.com).



### **Mark Elliott**

**Himachal Pradesh; Sikkim** Mark Elliott had already lived and worked on five continents when, in the pre-Internet dark ages, he started writing travel guides. He has since written (or cowritten) around 60 books including dozens for Lonely Planet. He also acts as a travel consultant, occasional tour leader, video presenter, speaker, interviewer and blues harmonicist. He's @Markbek on Twitter or [www.instagram.com/markbekaz](http://www.instagram.com/markbekaz).



## OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

## OUR WRITERS



### Joe Bindloss

Joe first got the travel bug on a grand tour of Asia in the early 1990s, and he's been roaming around its temples and paddy-fields ever since on dozens of assignments for Lonely Planet and other publishers, covering everywhere from Myanmar and Thailand to India and Nepal. When not on the road, Joe works as Lonely Planet's Destination Editor for the Indian Subcontinent. Joe wrote the Plan Your Trip section.



### Lindsay Brown

**Rajasthan** Lindsay started travelling as a young bushwalker exploring the Blue Mountains west of Sydney. Then as a marine biologist he dived the coastal and island waters of southeastern Australia. He continued travelling whenever he could while employed at Lonely Planet as an editor and publishing manager. On becoming a freelance writer and photographer he has cowritten more than 35 Lonely Planet guides to Australia, Bhutan, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea.



### Paul Harding

**Goa** As a writer and photographer, Paul has been travelling the globe for the best part of two decades, with an interest in remote and offbeat places, islands and cultures. He's an author and contributor to more than 50 Lonely Planet guides to countries and regions as diverse as India, Belize, Vanuatu, Iran, Indonesia, New Zealand, Iceland, Finland, Philippines and – his home patch – Australia. He's on twitter @phtravel and at paulharding.contently.com.



### Anirban Mahapatra

**Kolkata; Bihar & Jharkhand; Odisha** Anirban is a travel writer, photographer and filmmaker who has written multiple editions of Lonely Planet's bestselling *India* guidebook, as well as several regional handbooks. He has written and curated Lonely Planet guidebooks or Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan, as well as designing content models and holding writer workshops for Lonely Planet. He has also made videos and documentaries for international television networks, corporates and ministries under the Government of India. When not travelling the world, he lives in Kolkata and Bangkok, where he reads up on Buddhism, listens to the blues and plans his next adventure.

OVER MORE  
PAGE WRITERS

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