

SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS



SHIKHAR
TRAVELS
India
Since 1979

SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS

Visiting India is a journey of the mind and soul, a journey of self discovery. India is an immensely rich cultural treasure trove and coming here is often more than a casual exploration of some strange land. There are visitors who come with a focus, travelling around an interest (subject), exploring something in particular and it is for these keen explorers, that Shikhar Travels has designed its special interest tour. Shikhar Travels however does provide its well - researched and accurate information about various destinations and special activities that may interest the visitor.

With over 30 years of experience in organizing tours in diversified fields, we have gained experience in planning and organizing tours in any part of India, Nepal and Bhutan.

Apart from handling 250 expeditions from the different part of the world, we have organized various special interest tours.

We take you to

- Remotest part of Rural India, where you can see the unique customs & traditions of local people.
- Tribal heart land of India in Orissa, Bastar, Gujarat, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh where time has stood still and the tribal still untouched by the civilization.
- A venture on wheels, be it mountain bike, Motor bike or simply jeep safari across length & breath of India, across Trans Himalayas or desert. These specially designed trips gives you maximum flexibility to engage in your interest.- Navigate the rivers like Ganges, Indus by boat, raft and canoe.
- Visit the un – spoilt valley's of North Sikkim or Garhwal where variety of wild Himalayan flowers will charm you and navigate your senses.
- Soak yourself in local festivity, join their traditional festivals.

Shikhar's specialist team can work with you to create exciting and unique program based on your interest. Some of our specialization are :



Bengal Tiger of Central India!

Madhya Pradesh (Central India) is virtually a heaven for the wildlife lovers as the state is rich with a huge variety of fauna. There is something magical in the woods of Madhya Pradesh. Kanha is famous for Tigers as this is one of the oldest parks to have been included in Tiger Project and the grasslands are the best place where you spot most of the wildlife. The density of tiger is known to be the highest in India. The terrain of the park is quite rocky inside the park, there are around 35 sandstone caves also worth a visit. To spot one of them, you can take different safaris. Jeep safari and Elephant safari are the most common.

Day 01: Arrive Delhi

We welcome you to the land of culture and heritage, where hospitality is way of life. You will be transferred to the hotel for overnight stay.

Day 02: Delhi – Jabalpur – Kanha

Transfer to the domestic airport to board flight for Jabalpur. Upon arrival at Jabalpur proceed to Kanha Tiger Reserve. Overnight stay in the jungle lodge.

Day 03: Kanha

Kanha National Park is spread in the area of 1,945 Sq Kms in the Central India in 'Maikal Hills', renowned for its rich floral and faunal attributes. The picturesque Kanha National Park was the inspiration behind Rudyard Kipling's unforgettable classic 'Jungle Book'. Enjoy morning and evening Jeep safaris in Kanha National Park.

Day 04: Kanha – Bandhavgarh

Morning drive (256 Kms) to Bandhavgarh. Upon arrival check into your jungle lodge. Later enjoy evening Jeep Safari in Bandavgarh National Park. Overnight stay in the lodge .



Day 05: Bandhavgarh

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve is spread in the area of 450 Sq Kms. It was once a hunting reserve of the royal family of Rewa. Enjoy morning and evening Jeep safaris. In the Bandhavgarh National Park the visitors can go on elephant back apart from four wheelers.

Day 06: Bandhavgarh – Jabalpur

Enjoy morning and evening Jeep safaris in Bandhavgarh National Park. Proceed to Jabalpur (190 Kms). Upon arrival check into the hotel for overnight stay.

Day 07: Jabalpur – Delhi

Morning after breakfast proceed for domestic airport to board flight for Delhi. Arrive Delhi and transfer for onwards destination.



Lions & Tigers Safari Tour

The varied and rich wildlife of India is preserved in numerous national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. Indian tiger census conducted in 2008 revealed the existence of only 1411 tigers widely distributed over the forests of India and sub-alpine Himalayas. Most important Tiger parks are Corbett (located in foothills of Uttaranchal), Kanha and Bandhavgarh National Park (in central India) and home of Asiatic Lion—Gir National Park (Gujarat-western India). Come, feel the thrill of photographing a wild lion on the prowl and experience an Indian jungle safari.

Day 01: Arrive Delhi

Welcome to India- a country where hospitality is a way of life ; to a culture steeped in tradition.. You will be received at the airport and proceed to your hotel for overnight stay.

Day 02: Delhi – Corbett

Morning drive (285 Kms) to India's first and oldest national park named 'Jim Corbett National Park'. Arrive Corbett and check in to a jungle lodge for overnight stay.

Day 03: Corbett

Morning and Evening jeep safari. Overnight at jungle lodge.

Day 04: Corbett – Delhi – Katni

Morning drive back to Delhi to board the train to Katni (Dept: 1610 / Arr:0755).

Day 05: Delhi - Katni - Bandhavgarh

Arrive Katni, received by the representative and drive (60 Kms) to Bandhavgarh. Reach Bandhavgarh, check in to jungle lodge for overnight stay. Later enjoy evening Jeep Safari in Bandhavgarh National Park.



Day 06 & Day 07: Bandhavgarh

Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve is spread in an area of 450 Sq Kms. Once a hunting reserve of the royal family of Rewa. In the Bandhavgarh National Park the visitors can be on elephant back apart from the four wheelers. The day is for morning and afternoon jeep safari. overnight stay in jungle lodge.

Day 08: Bandhavgarh – Kanha

Morning after breakfast drive (250 Kms) to Kanha. The picturesque Kanha National Park was the inspiration behind Rudyard Kipling's unforgettable classic 'Jungle Book'. Enjoy evening Jeep safaris in Kanha National Park in the afternoon.

Day 09: Kanha

Kanha National Park is famous for its wild life and the natural beauty of its landscape. It's also the shelter of one of the largest population of tiger in the country. Morning and afternoon jungle jeep safari.

Day 10: Kanha

Morning and afternoon jungle jeep Safari. Overnight at jungle lodge.

Day 11: Kanha – Nagpur – Gir National Park

Morning drive (260 Kms) to Nagpur. Arrive Nagpur and take flight to Ahmedabad. Further drive to Gir national Park. Overnight at jungle lodge.

Day 12: Gir National Park & Wildlife Sanctuary

It comprises 1412 sq km of deciduous forest interspersed with semi-evergreen and evergreen flora, acacia, scrub jungle, grasslands and rocky hills. Gir is a home of the world famous Asiatic Lion. The lions can be seen on their hunt in the large patches of grasslands. The hills are sparsely covered with trees. The vegetation in this area is mixed deciduous.

Day 13: Gir National Park – Mumbai - Departure

Morning drive to Diu airport to board the flight to Mumbai. On arrival depart to onward destination.



Trans Himalayan Safari

The safari passes through some of the highest motorable roads in the world and crossing a number of high passes. Enter Indus valley with dotted villages on its bank and beautiful monasteries built on hillside. Visit regions steeped in rich culture and history, it offers a great opportunity to interact with the beautiful people of this land. Your journey finishes at Leh making the drive a lifetime's experience. A perfect way to explore the diversity of the Himalayan region while experiencing the beauty of landscapes, snowy peaks and verdant valleys.

Day 01: Arrive Delhi

Warm welcome on arrival and transfer to the hotel.

Day 02: Delhi – Chandigarh – Manali

Morning board the train to Chandigarh, from there we will be heading to (310 Kms) Manali.

Day 03: Manali

Visit to Hadimba Devi Temple and Bashist Hot water spring.

Day 4: Manali - Rohtang – Keylong

Drive to Keylong (3140 M) (140 kms/6 - 7 hrs approx) via Rohtang pass (3980 M). On arrival check into hotel.

Day 5: Keylong - Jispa – Sarchu

Morning visit Sarshul Gompa. Further drive to reach Sarchu by covering approx 92 kms in approx 4 hr. Sarchu is the border of Himachal and Jammu - Kashmir States. En route stop at Baralacha Pass (4891) Baralacha means "a pass with cross roads". Arrive Sarchu and check-in at Tented Camp for overnight stay.



Day 6: Sarchu - Tsomoriri

This "Mountain Lake" is surrounded by 6000 m peaks which completely surrounds the lake. The valley is inhabited by a small population of "Changpas" nomadic shepherds. The Area is rich in wildlife. Also visit the 350 years old Karzok monastery which has about 33 resident monks.

Day 7: Tsomoriri - Leh

Morning Drive to Leh 240 Kms . Arrive Leh by evening and overnight stay in hotel.

Day 8: Leh

Morning proceed for sightseeing tour of Phiyang, Spitik and Stok Palace. Rest of the day at leisure.

Day 9: Leh

Morning proceed for Indus Valley monastery tour. Visit Shey Palace - Thiksay Gompa & Museum. Afternoon return back to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 10: Leh - Delhi

Morning flight to Delhi. Met on arrival and transfer to hotel. Rest of the day at leisure.

Day 11: Delhi - Onward Destination

Optional sightseeing of Delhi. Transfer to international airport to board the flight to onward destination.



Zanskar Monastery Tour

Zanskar is known for its striking and rugged beauty. In this vast and dry high altitude Himalayan desert, villages and their dominating monasteries appear like true oasis of life. For those of you who would like to dive in and experience the striking beauty and stillness of these ancient kingdoms, we have designed this itinerary.

Day 01: Arrive Delhi

Welcome to the land which is the perfect blend of culture, heritage and modernity. Transfer to the hotel for overnight stay.

Day 02: Delhi - Leh

Morning we will head to domestic airport to board one of the most spectacular trans- Himalayan flight to Leh. Welcome on arrival at Leh airport (3500 mt) and transfer to hotel.

Day 03: Leh - Kargil

Morning drive to Kargil (2740 mt) which is the second major town of Ladakh and is situated on banks of Suru river. After crossing over Namik-La (13000 ft) we stop at Mulbekh village (3230 mt) and visit the remarkable 9 story high rockcut statue of Mitreya Buddha. On arrival at Kargil check in at hotel for overnight stay.

Day 04: Kargil - Suru - Padum

Morning we drive towards Suru valley along Suru river which forms its source from Penzi-la glaciers. En route we can see the mighty Nun-Kun peaks which are the among the most challenging peaks in Ladakh. By evening we arrive at Rangdum plains and thus step in to Zanskar region. We reach Padum and checkin at a Guest House for overnight stay.

Day 05: Padum Day at leisure, you can take rest and explore the city to familiarise yourself with the town. Overnight stay at the Guest House.

Day 06: Padum - Thongde - Padum

This day we explore the Monastery of Thongde situated on rocky outcrop. One of the main attractions is the Gon Khang " the chambers of the protectors" of the monastery. Explore the other prayer halls of the Gompa. Later explore the village of Thongde. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight stay at the Guest House.

Day 07: Padum – Stongdey - Zangla-- Karsha- Padum Morning drive to northern part of Zanskar valley, here visit one of the last remaining suspension bridges a remarkable example of primitive engineering. Drive further 5/10 minutes to visit the Zangla Nunnery monastery. En route visit ' Stongdey Monastery ' -The monastery of Stongdey lies 18-km to the north of Padum, on the road leading to Zangla. An old foundation associated with the Tibetan Yogi, Marpa, Stongdey is now the second largest monastic establishment of Zanskar, inhabited by the resident community of about 60 Gelukpa monks next visit ' Karsha ' - the largest monestery . Overnight at the hotel.

Day 08: Day 9: Padum - Kargil

Morning drive back to Kargil. on arrival by evening checkin at the hotel. Later proceed for a short visit to Kargil city which has some of the finest examples of Turkish style houses. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 10: Kargil - Leh

Early morning drive back towards Leh and stay overnight at the hotel. However we can visit Monesteries of western Ladakh like Lamayuru, Alchi & Likir. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 11: Leh -Delhi

Morning transfer to airport to board flight for Delhi. Arrive delhi and get assistance for onward destination.



Nagaland Tribal Tour

The states of Northeast India's natural splendor welcome the tourist browsing for something different. Travel through india's most rarely visited state to learn about ancient traditions of Naga tribals , vanishing wildlife and the universal language of music. Colourful life and culture are an integral part of the 16 Naga tribes and each tribe is distinct in character from the other in terms of customs, tradition, language and dress. Tribal dances of the Nagas give us an insight into the inborn reticence of these people. Stigmatized as 'head hunters' the tribals of Nagaland, considered wild and uncivilized, have nevertheless a lifestyle that is fascinating and unbelievable.

Day 01: Arrive Delhi

Warm welcome on arrival and transfer to the hotel.

Day 2: Delhi - Dimapur – Kohima

Fly to Dimapur. Assistance on arrival and drive (74 km) to Kohima, Enroute stop at Zubza check post 16 km before Kohima. Later on arrival in Kohima check into the hotel.

Day 3: Kohima

Full day sightseeing

Day 4: Kohima - Mokokchung

Morning drive to reach Mokokchung the center of Ao Tribe. On the way visit Longsa village (Lotha Tribe). Further drive to Longkhim village of Ao Tribe Visit to a village house, Rock memorial, village rice mill etc. Later upon arrival in Mokokchung check-in at the Circuit house for overnight stay.



Day 5: Mokokchung

Morning excursion to Mopunchukti village. This village is permanent Mission Centre of Ao Baptist Arogo Mungdang. Visit time pillar and Morung at the village. Overnight stay at Circuit House.

Day 6: Mokokchung - Tuensang

Morning drive to reach Tuensang (1371 mts). On the way stop at Chare town 60 km before Tuensang for police check-post. En-route 30 km before Tuensang visit Longkhim Village of Sangtam tribe. Later in the day visit Tuensang Village of Cham Tribe. Overnight at Circuit House

Day 7: Tuensang - Mon

Early breakfast drive (160 km) to reach Mon via Tobu. After reaching Mon checkin at the ADC Rest House for overnight stay.

Day 8: Mon

In the morning visit Shangnyu village. Visit - village Morong, Shangnyu village museum, Shangnyu Ang house which is close to the museum, Rock memorials etc. In the afternoon drive to Chui Village to see Wangkhao Ang House - one of the best Ang houses with beautiful decoration.

Day 9: Mon - Sonari - Sibsagar

Drive to Sibsagar (in Assam). It was capital of Ahom Dynasty which ruled Assam for over 600 yrs.

Day 10: Sibsagar - Dibrugarh – Kolkata

Drive to Dibrugarh airport to board flight to Kolkata.

Day 11: Kolkata - Onward Destination

In the morning proceed for city tour. Later transfer to airport in time to board flight for onward destination.



Gujarat Tribal Tour

There is sizeable population of tribals in Gujarat and they are mainly spread over western and southern Gujarat. The tribes have migrated from different part of present day Pakistan, Rajasthan and Southern Gujrat. and initiated the growth of a multi religious society. "Rabaris" have mainly migrated from Sind and Marwar and they are a community of cattle breeders. They lead a nomadic life. The Kutchis are natives of the peninsula of kutch. Other important tribes are Bhils, Kathis and Kolies. Each tribe has its own distinct dresses, ornaments and customs. During the trip, also visit the "Wild Ass Sanctuary" at little Rann of Kutch the great Salt Plain.

Day 01: Arrive - Delhi

Arrive Delhi and transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 02: Delhi – Ahmedabad - Poshina

Fly to Ahmedabad. On arrival we will take you to guided city sightseeing of Ahmedabad covering Gandhi Ashram, Adlaj step well, Calico Museum etc. Afternoon drive to Poshina (200 Kms) and check-into hotel for overnight stay.

Day 03: Poshina

Poshina is a village that takes you back to the simple beauty of traditional village life. It is populated by a captivating blend of colourful tribal communities of the Garasias, Bhils and the pastoral Rabaris. Morning visit nearby villages to tribals and visit their shrine / teracotta horse army.

Day 04: Poshina – Dasada

Morning proceed for Dasada- Dasada can be considered to be the gateway to Little Rann of Kutch. Morning visit Modhera Sun temple, Patan weaving Village and step wall enroute.

Day 05: Dasada

Morning jeep safari in Little Rann of Kutch to see various migratory birds and wild ass. In the afternoon visit Rawari and Bhairwad tribal villages around Dasada.



Day 06: Dasada – Bhuj

Early morning drive to Bhuj (265 Kms). Arrive and check -in at hotel. Bhuj is the major town of Kutch and known for its palaces, built in the traditional style. Afternoon visit Collector"s office for Permit. Later proceed to visit Bhujedi villages and market.

Day 07: Bhuj

Day for visiting various villages to see different tribes like Rabari, Jat, Garasia, Muthawa, Merwar etc. engaged in different textile handicrafts such as Leather embroidery, mirror work, Rogan painting on fabric, shawl weaving, vegetable dye printing etc.

Day 08: Bhuj – Hodko

Morning proceed to visit various tribal villages. Visit Naron village famous for Roghan painting and bell making). Later continue to Bhirandiara village (settlement of Harijan tribe). Also visit Dorodo village (famous for its muthwa mud work). After visting various villages, drive to Hodko (90 Kms) and check -into traditional camp for overnight stay.

Day09 : Hodko – Sayla

In the morning visit some of the tribal villages around Hodko. Later drive to Sayla (225 Kms). In the evening enjoy folk music and dance.

Day 10: Sayla – Jambughoda

Morning drive to Jambughoda (300 Kms) visiting Lothal Ruins and Champaner en-route. Arrive by afternoon and check - into hotel.

Day 11: Jambughoda

Full day visit to Chhota Udaipur and nearby tribal villages to see Rathwa & Nayak tribes and visits HAAT (weekly market - held every day at different villages, where you can get local hadicraft items). While returning back to hotel, visit local house with Pithora paining.

Day 12: Jambughoda - Vadodara - Mumbai

Drive to Vadodara (90 Kms) airport to board flight to Mumbai. Reach Mumbai and transfer to flight for onward destination.



Botanical Tour -

“Rhododendrons & Monasteries of East”

The Singba Rhododendron Sanctuary located in North Sikkim (Area; 43 sq. km/Alt 3048-4575 mts.) is also known popularly as the Valley of flower of the East is a paradise for nature lovers with a fascinating blend of flora & fauna and breathtaking scenic grandeur. The picturesque Yumthang Valley is known for its alpine meadow, hot springs and river flows through the sanctuary, which is known for its unique abundance of Rhododendron in different colors (almost 40 species) that ablaze in color during March - May. Lachung is the last frontier village before reaching the sanctuary. It is predominantly a Lepcha region, a quaint village which has its own unique beauty & lifestyle. On the way to Lachung is Singhik where one can see the magnificent Kanchenzonga range in its splendour.

Day 01: Arrive Delhi

Welcome to India- You will be received at the airport in a traditional manner with garlands and proceed to your hotel.

Day 02: Delhi - Bagdogra – Gangtok

Morning transfer to domestic airport to board flight for Bagdogra. Our local representative will meet you upon arrival and will accompany you to Gangtok (129 Kms). Upon arrival check into hotel for overnight stay.

Day 03: Gangtok – Lachung

Drive to Lachung Valley (8,800ft) (approx 5 hrs drive). At Lachung visit Kabi Lungstok, a historical site and stroll through the village for a glimpse of typical village life.



Day 04: Lachung

The term 'Lachung' literally means 'Small Mountain'. Lachung is one amongst the most beautiful villages that is adorned with the vista of snow-capped mountains, astounding waterfalls and dazzling streams. Morning explore the area around Lachung to see high altitude flowers.

Day 05: Lachung – Yumthang – Lachung

Leave early in the morning to visit the Yumthang valley, passing through the Singba Rhododendron Sanctuary, home to nearly 40 varieties of rhododendron flowers. Yumthang valley at 11,800 ft is breathtakingly beautiful with snow-capped peaks and nature aglow. Later drive back to Lachung for overnight stay.

Day 06: Lachung – Gangtok

Drive back to Gangtok, enroute visit the Phodong Monastery, one of the oldest Kagyu monastery in Sikkim. Arrive Gangtok and check in to the hotel, afternoon visit Botanical Garden An orchid sanctuary for a glimpse of the rare orchids, Local handicraft Centre, Flower Show (Seasonal) and Tibetan Market.

Day 07: Gangtok – Rumtek - Pelling

Morning check out from the hotel and drive to Pelling enroute visit Rumtek Monastery - a Kagyu Monastery also the seat of the Gyalwa Karmapa. Arrive Pelling, Visit Tashiding Monastery - It is situated on top of a hill-top, another 17th century Nyingmapa Monastery. Enroute visit the hot-springs.

Day 08: Pelling - Darjeeling

Morning drive to Darjeeling (126 Kms) en route visit Rabdentse Palace ruins. Arrive Darjeeling, evening visit Tibetan Refugee Self Help Centre to see the handicraft works.

Day 09: Darjeeling

Visit Tiger Hill in the morning to view the sunrise & visit the Himalayan Mountain Institute, Tea Estate and Batasia Loop. Afternoon, visit the Dali Gumpa and take a short ride in the famed “Toy Train” two feet gauge railway.

Day 10: Darjeeling – Bagdogra - Delhi

Morning drive to Bagdogra (102 Kms) and transfer to the domestic airport to board the flight to Delhi.

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