

# Destination Himalaya

*Tours For The Adventurous Traveler*

## Taj, Tigers & Temples

Photographer's India

Featuring the Pushkar Camel Fair



*At the Pushkar Camel Fair*

**A Photo Cultural Journey**

**with Lewis Kemper**

November 18<sup>th</sup> – December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

16 Days – Moderate Touring

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**R**ajasthan is the land of the Rajputs, who have held dominion over the western deserts of India for more than a thousand years. It is one of the areas of India where great numbers of people are still to be seen in traditional garb; their adherence to tradition is proof of the tenacity of a proud heritage. Here the barren desert-scape underscores the colorful human imprint. Swirling skirts festooned with shiny embroidery, turbans of every hue, temple doors daubed with handprints, shrines garlanded with flowers; vibrant color is everywhere.



*The Taj Mahal*

Our Photo Tour to Rajasthan is designed to have ample time exploring and photographing the Bishnoi tribals and their villages in Jamba, camel caravans at sunset and the “pink city” of Jaipur. One of the highlights of this tour will be the gathering at Pushkar, where hundreds of villagers, nomads and gypsies gather, bringing with them thousands of camels, horses and cattle – truly an amazing sight. An entire tent city springs up overnight to accommodate all the bartering and bantering, purchasing and merry-making. Another highlight will be the opportunity of seeing and photographing the elusive Royal Bengal Tiger in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. Of course, no photography trip to India is complete without visiting the “the monument of love” the Taj Mahal and our final highlight will be photographing the warm light of the rising and setting sun light up the white marble of the Taj.

Through photogenic Rajasthan, we will have the expertise of professional photographer Lewis Kemper guiding us on a daily basis. One of our favorite regions, Rajasthan is a wonderful destination both, for the photographic enthusiast and the ardent traveler.

# I T I N E R A R Y

## Day 1

**Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**

**DEPART USA** Depart your hometown bound for Delhi, India.

**Note on international flights:** Please inform us if you would like assistance in booking your international air flights. There is non-stop service to Delhi on American Airlines (Chicago), Air India (New York Kennedy) and United (Newark). There are several alternate options of flying in and out of India as almost all major international carriers offer service to India. Depending on your choice of international carrier you may be required to depart the USA a day earlier.

## Day 2

**Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**

**ARRIVES DELHI** You will arrive at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport late this evening or early the following morning. After proceeding through Immigration and Customs, head to the Arrivals area. A Destination Himalaya representative will meet you and assist with your transfer to the hotel, where a room will be booked for immediate occupancy. Expect to reach your hotel room approximately two hours after your flight lands.

*The Grand*

## Day 3

**Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**



**EXPLORING DELHI** Even when Bombay and Madras were mere trading posts and Calcutta a village of mud huts, Delhi had been the seat of an empire for five hundred years. Through the centuries, eight cities have been built on this site, by Hindus, the Mughals and the British, each adding their own flavor. In a matter of minutes you can be transported from a sprawling, elegant garden city to the ancient twisting alleyways of Old Delhi.

We have the morning to rest and recover from jetlag. This afternoon we will head out to "Old Delhi," an exotic locale with narrow roads, myriad people and inexpensive and colorful bazaars that keep alive the traditional workmanship for which Delhi has always been famous. The first stop is Raj Ghat (the cremation ground of Mahatma Gandhi), which today has become a pilgrimage site for Indians.

Driving past the Red Fort (you will visit the more elaborate Red Fort in Agra) we first trade our motor vehicle for a bicycle rickshaw, which will take us into the heart of Chandni Chowke (the silver square - so named because of the silver merchants). Here we can spend some time exploring the shops in the heart of the old city. Negotiating alleyways that seemingly get narrower and narrower, we end up at the Jama Masjid, the largest Muslim mosque in India.



*The Sites and Smells of Old Delhi*

On our way back into New Delhi, our guide will point out the Raj-era architecture in the city center, including the renowned India Gate and Edwin Landseer Lutyens' and Herbert Baker's monumental governmental building on the Raisina Hill.

This evening you will be treated to a sumptuous welcome dinner at one of Delhi's fine restaurants.

*The Grand (B, L, D)*

#### **Day 4**

**Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**

**TO JAMBA REGION IN RAJASTHAN** This morning we will transfer back to Delhi's airport for our short flight to Jodhpur in Rajasthan.

Depart Delhi	10:25 AM	Jet Air 2631	NON-STOP
Arrive Jodhpur	11:45 AM		

From Jodhpur, we make our way farther into the hinterland (a 2.5 hour drive) of the Great Thar Desert to a region known as Jamba, the stronghold of the fascinating Bishnoi tribes,



*Dera Sand Dune Resort, Jamba*

All Bishnois follow the 29 (bis-noi) tenets laid down by the 15<sup>th</sup>-century guru Jambeshwar, affectionately known as “Jamba-ji.” They fervently believe in the sanctity of animal and plant life, so wildlife finds a natural sanctuary around their villages.



In Jamba, we will be staying at the Dera Sand Dune Retreat. This is an exclusive property, set atop a 130' high sand dune with panoramic views of the Thar Desert. The Retreat features exquisite examples of traditional Rajasthani architecture used throughout, with stonework and carvings employing

local design and sustainable materials and, most importantly, utilizing the skills of local craftsmen. It features individual deluxe cottages, a swimming pool, and beautiful restaurant.

The Retreat will be our base as we spend the next few days enjoying the hospitality of the Rajasthani people and interacting with the Bishnoi tribals, with whom we are working on several charitable projects.

This evening we head out to the dunes for sunset photography.

*Dera Sand Dune Retreat (B, L, D)*



### **THE DERA SAND DUNE RETREAT & VILLAGE COMMUNITIES OF JAMBA**

In the distant reaches and vast expanse of the Thar Desert, far off the beaten tourist trail, lays the unique and inspirational Dera Sand Dune Retreat. Magnificently perched atop a 130' stabilized sand dune, the resort is a wonderful base to explore this remote area of Rajasthan and, most importantly, to interact with the "living cultures" of rural India.

From its inception, sustainable tourism and conservation, both of the natural environment and traditional village cultures, have been the primary motivating factors and reason for the establishment of the Dera Sand Dune Retreat. Construction and operation of the resort has been designed with the utmost care to be minimally invasive and inconspicuous. The resort was designed to accentuate the desert topography, and is aesthetically unobtrusive; in fact, it actually succeeds in complementing and enhancing the beauty of the area. As the resort lies in a desert area, specific care is taken to minimize environmental impacts.

At Jamba, the fruits of the local community's labors have been seamlessly integrated. The construction of the resort could literally never have been completed without the direct involvement of Jamba's residents. The local community was involved in every step of the resort's journey from dream to reality, from initial agreement and approval to the actual hands-on construction process. Dera's furnishing and décor, notably carpets and tapestries woven by local villagers, are also crafted nearby.

Over the course of these two days, we will venture out into the region to see the locals at work and about their everyday lives, and will spend ample time getting acquainted with the amazing village communities who inhabit this part of rural Rajasthan.

**Day 5**  
**Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**EXPLORING JAMBA REGION** The Bishnoi are known as great conservationists, to whom the protection of animal and vegetable life is a religion. Today we will explore the area in 4-wheel drive vehicles as we meet and photograph Bishnoi villagers and villages. There are also some wonderful opportunities to purchase crafts from local artisans.



*Bishnois Village, Jamba*



Bishnoi villages are immaculate, scrubbed daily by brightly clad women who are weighted down by silver jewelry and festooned with bangles right up the length of their arms. By contrast, the tall men dress entirely in white, their large turbans loosely swathed around dark-skinned, weathered faces.

In the afternoon, return to the Dera Sand Dune Retreat, where we can relax by the pool, before heading out again at sunset. When guests are in camp, musicians and dancers from nearby villages usually come to perform in the evening.

*Dera Sand Dune Retreat – Deluxe Cottage  
(B, L, D)*



**Day 6**  
**Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**TO PUSHKAR** After breakfast we depart Jamba and begin our drive to Pushkar. In Pushkar, we will be staying at our private deluxe camp. The camp has large walk-in tents with beds, table and chair, an attached toilet/changing room with western style water closet, washbasin, and hand-held shower with running hot and cold water. All meals are vegetarian due to the religious nature of the gathering. Although the local chefs try to cook a variety of vegetarian dishes, they are hindered by a lack of fresh produce.



After checking into our private camp, we make our first visit to the camel fair. The fair is reputed to have in excess of a hundred thousand head of camels, cattle, goats and horses. The gathering takes place for farmers and nomads to trade or purchase livestock.

*Deluxe Private Camp (B, L, D)*





**Day 7**  
**Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**

**PUSHKAR CAMEL FAIR** Like the rest of India, festivals play a major role in the Rajasthani way of life, and today you partake in one of the most important, definitely the most dramatic and colorful festivals of them all - the gathering at Pushkar. All over India temples abound dedicated to two of the Indian Trinity of creation: Vishnu the preserver, and Shiva the destroyer. At Pushkar is the sole temple dedicated to the all-powerful Brahma the creator. To bathe in the ghats at Pushkar offers great sanctity. Around the eleventh full moon of every year (Hindu lunar calendar) is a week long festival when everyone in Rajasthan congregates at Pushkar bringing with them, camels to barter with, goats and cows to trade, pottery, jewelry and other fine handicrafts to sell. It is indeed a time of festivity, of music and dance, of trade and barter, and of religious observance.



We have the full day to explore and photograph Pushkar, watch the local horse and cattle show, sunset on the camel camps, sunrise at the bathing ghats, the dance dramas – there is activity round the clock.

*Deluxe Private Camp (B, L, D)*

**Day 8**  
**Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>**

**TO JAIPUR** Early this morning we will be transferred to the railway station for our train journey to Jaipur. A travel experience on India's iconic train system is not to be missed.



*Amber Fort*

On arrival in Jaipur, we will be met and transferred to our hotel. Jaipur, the “Pink City,” is the home of the Rajputs, a group of warrior clans who ruled this part of India for a thousand years, Jaipur was built in 1727 by the warrior-astronomer Maharaja Jai Singh-II. The city is laid out as described in the ancient Hindu treatise on architecture, “Shilpa-Shastra.” Battlement walls with seven gates encircle the old city; broad avenues divide it into neat rectangles. Jaipur is popularly known as the “Pink City” due to the rose-colored sandstone of the buildings in the old walled city.

This afternoon we will venture into the heart of old Jaipur, within the old city walls, to wander and explore the vibrant bazaar – a great place to photograph, find a bargain or perhaps a wonderful treasure!

*Oberoi Trident Hotel (B, L, D)*

**Day 9**  
**Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>**

**EXPLORING JAIPUR** This morning we head into the hills just outside Jaipur to tour the Amber Fort and Palace. This is a beautiful and very well preserved 16<sup>th</sup> Century structure, built on four levels and surrounded by ruins. This was the location backdrop for the Mira Nair movie “Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love.” Depending on availability, we will also have the unique experience of traveling on the back of an elephant as you ride to the top of the hill on which the fort is situated.



*Largest sundial of the world, Jantar Mantar - Jaipur*

Departing Amber Fort, we venture back inside the walls of the Pink City, stopping to photograph the exquisite Hawa Mahal. We then visit the City Palace, where the present Maharaja resides. There is a Mughal art museum, housing a lovely collection of Rajasthani & Mughal miniature painting. Part of the complex is an outdoor 18<sup>th</sup>-century astronomical and astrological observatory (Jantar Mantar) with several incredible sundials (accurate to 2 seconds) and very modern-looking astrological markers.

This evening we have a special treat in store as we dine on traditional Rajasthani fare at the private haveli of members of one of Jaipur's noble families.

*Oberoi Trident Hotel (B, L, D)*

### **Day 10**

**Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>**

**TO RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK** Leaving Jaipur, we make the 3-4 hour drive to Ranthambore National Park, perhaps India's most renowned wildlife preserve. We will arrive in time to enjoy a sunset excursion into Sawai Madhopur Sanctuary, which is one of eleven sites chosen for Project Tiger. At Ranthambore, we will be staying at the lovely Nahargarh Lodge, our base for exploring the Park.

At 150 sq. miles, Ranthambore is the smallest of India's "Tiger Project Reserves," but boasts an impressive array of animal and bird life. Situated in the junction of the Aravalli and Vindhya mountain ranges, forested with deciduous trees, dotted with natural and manmade lakes, this park was established as a sanctuary in 1959 and included in the very first phase of Project Tiger in 1972. In 1981, Ranthambore was awarded the status of a National Park. Project Tiger is the single largest conservation program initiated by the Government of India with help from the World Wildlife Fund. This afternoon we will make our first 4-wheel drive game excursion into the Park.

*Nahargarh Lodge (B, L, D)*



*On safari in Ranthambore National Park*

### **Days 11 & 12**

**Wednesday & Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>**

**EXPLORING RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK** We will spend two days experiencing the natural cycle of life in Ranthambore awakening to the sunrise routines of the tiger, leopard, nilgai, chinkara, sambar and crocodiles. In the afternoon we will also take Park Service four-wheel drive jeeps to witness the sunset and look for Royal Bengal Tigers and other wildlife, accompanied by a Park naturalist.



The Park derives its name from the 11<sup>th</sup> Century fort of Ranthambore, which sits on a rocky outcrop in the forest. The fort was a vital citadel for the control of central India. Though overrun by vegetation, remnants of the summer palaces, temples and guard stones within the fort still remain. Tiger, leopard, sloth bear, wild boar, nilgai, chinkara, sambar and chital inhabit Ranthambore. Sambar, nilgai and the langur are in abundance. Crocodiles are found in some of these lakes, which are also seasonally rich in water birds.

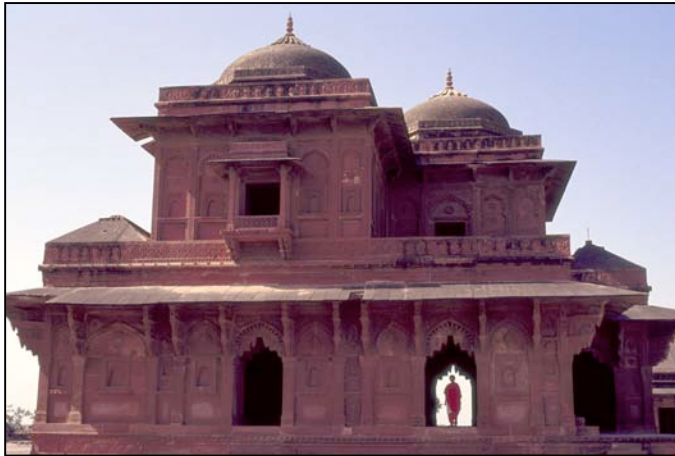


*marsh crocodile*

The December 1997 issue of National Geographic had a special feature on the tigers of Ranthambore. The strict conservation measures that have been taken in the park seem to have made the big cat quite accustomed to human presence and are not disturbed by it. Daytime sightings of the tiger are quite common as the cats are busy in their normal pursuits (oblivious to the human presence) - especially stalking or hunting and taking care of their young.

*Naharagarh Lodge (B, L, D)*

**Day 13**  
**Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**



**TO AGRA VIA FATEPUR SIKRI** After breakfast depart Ranthambore for Agra. En route, stopping at Fateful Sikri, Akbar's eerily abandoned city, full of elegant small palace structures carved from red sandstone.

An hour outside of Agra, Fatepur Sikri was built as the capital of the Mughal Empire between 1570 and 1586. Akbar built the city to celebrate the birth of an heir (the

future Emperor Jehangir).

We then continue on to Agra, where we will check in to our hotel for departing on our evening photography excursion. We will head out across the Yamuna River to photograph the Taj Mahal from a wonderful vantage point as we watch the sunset on the Taj's iconic white marble. As the Taj is closed on Friday, we will make our visits to the monument on Saturday.

*Oberoi Trident Hotel (B, L, D)*



*The Taj at sunrise – afloat in the morning mist*

*“The only way  
I could escape  
the feeling of  
being in a dream  
was to close  
my eyes.”  
- Theo Cruz*

**Day 14**  
**Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>**

**EXPLORING AGRA** This morning we will rise early to visit the Taj Mahal at sunrise. Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal in 1631 to enshrine the mortal remains of his Queen Mumtaz Mahal. It took seventeen years, 20,000 workers, and a King's treasury to build this wonder.

Mark Twain wrote *that “For ever and ever the memory of my first glimpse of the Taj will compensate me for creeping around the globe to have that great privilege.”* Wander with your guide into the inner chambers of this monument. During your visit in Agra you will experience the Taj from both close and far, watching the light play on its magnificent lines and its reflection in the Yamuna River.

After breakfast at the hotel, we set out to explore Agra. We drive back over the Yamuna River to visit the forerunner of the Taj Mahal—the elaborately ornate Itmad ud Daula (photo at right). In memory of her father, this mausoleum was built by Queen Nur Jahan in 1622, and is a perfect example of the fine inlaid stonework and translucent marble screens that Agra is so famous for. Many historians believe that this monument was the inspiration for Shah Jahan to build the Taj and is often described as the “petite Taj.”

After lunch, visit Agra Fort, built by Akbar as his citadel over the years 1565-73 in the finest architectural style. It is an almost perfect fusion between military might and lavish beauty. The fort, approachable through its two lofty main portals on the west and south, was successively occupied by three great Mughals—Akbar, Jahangir and Shah Jahan—each of whom made significant structural contributions to this complex. Shah Jahan died here, imprisoned by his son, gazing at the Taj Mahal he had built in memory of his wife.

This evening we will make our sunset visit to the Taj Mahal to photograph the sun’s setting rays light up the indelible white marble of this immortal monument. Farewell Dinner tonight in Agra.

*Oberoi Trident Hotel (B, L, D)*

**Day 15**

**Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**IN AGRA, TO DELHI & DEPART** We have the morning for further photo opportunities in Agra. We then depart and make the four-hour drive to Delhi. We will have dinner at a restaurant near the airport. After dinner, we transfer to Indira Gandhi International Airport to check in for our outbound flights to the USA, which begin departing Delhi later this evening.

*(B, L, D)*

**Day 16**

**Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**ARRIVE USA**

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*Tiger at watering hole, Ranthambore National Park*

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**2012 LAND & AIR COST  
(per person, twin share)**

10 - 14 participants: \$5,880

Single Supplement: \$1,500

**Internal India Airfare**

Delhi – Jodhpur: \$126  
(subject to change by airline)

**INCLUDED IN TOUR COST**

- Accommodations as listed in the above itinerary, based on double occupancy and inclusive of all taxes and service charges
- All special events listed in the itinerary
- All transportation using air-conditioned vehicles within India
- All meals after arrival in India through departure (Day 3 - Day 15)
- All arrival/departure airport/hotel transfers
- Sightseeing as noted with experienced English-speaking local guides
- All entry fees (including still cameras) at all temples, museums and monuments on sightseeing excursions
- All fees for local talent (2-3 colorfully clad locals in Jaipur, Agra; camels and camel herders in Jamba)
- Tips/gratuity to local staff (guides, drivers, bell boys, etc.)
- Services of Photography Expert, Lewis Kemper
- Services of Destination Himalaya's Tour Manger
- Govt. Service Taxes as applicable
- Destination Himalaya's Medical (\$25,000), Accident and Evacuation Insurance (\$500,000) and Assistance Plan

**NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR COST**

- International airfare, departure taxes and en route stopovers to and from Asia
- Internal Asia airfare (cost listed separately)
- Gratuities to Tour Manger or Trip Leader
- Items of a personal nature, such as alcoholic beverages, laundry, phone calls, etc.
- Movie, video camera fees
- Trip cancellation, travel delay or baggage insurance. (Note: This optional coverage is highly recommended and can be purchased through Destination Himalaya)
- Charges incurred as a result of delays beyond Destination Himalaya control



## A Word About Your Tour Leader



**Lewis Kemper** has been photographing the natural beauty of North America, and its park lands for over 29 years specializing in nature and outdoor photography. His work has been exhibited and published in magazines, books, and calendars worldwide.

Lewis teaches photography for many organizations including Palm Beach Photographic Centre, Santa Fe Workshops, Lepp Institute and BetterPhoto.com. He is the author of *The Yosemite Photographer's Handbook*, and *The Yellowstone Photographer's Handbook*. His work has been published in numerous books including publications by The Sierra Club, The National Geographic Society, Little Brown, APA Insight Guides, Sequoia Communications, Prentice Hall, Hyperion Books, Companion Press, Cachuma Press. Currently

Lewis is a contributing editor to *Outdoor Photographer* and *PC Photo* magazines.

Lewis photographs in color using 35mm and 4 x 5 cameras. He has been named to Canon USA's elite group of photographers, The Explorers of Light. Canon USA has selected 62 photographers to represent Canon and its photographic products.

An excellent photographer, Lewis is a skilled teacher, and will assist you in every way, enabling you to bring home wonderful memories, suitable for framing.

### Trip Grading: Easy to Moderate Touring

This is an easy to moderate touring trip, staying in the best available hotels (3-5 Star) with facilities to match their star rating. Please note that road conditions in India leave a lot to be desired and the traffic can appear to be wild and unregulated and horns are used more often than brakes.

Sightseeing excursions and intercity drives can be exhausting and long (5-6 hours), thus giving the tour a "moderate" rating. Bathroom facilities during sight seeing excursions and long drives are frequently nonexistent and limited to the facilities at a local restaurant, which could be just an "out-house." Inter India flights can be delayed without reason, or much advance notice.

North Indian cuisine is spicy non-vegetarian and vegetarian dishes. If you prefer not to eat spicy food every day, you can ask that they be prepared with "mild spices." All of the hotels featured in this itinerary have restaurants that also offer some "western/continental" dishes. **Flexibility and a sense of humor are essential ingredients for travel in India.**

## Visas

Visas are required for US and Canada citizens/residents traveling to India. Visa needs to be procured prior to your departure from the USA. Visa processing fees are not included in the land cost of the trip.

## Immunizations And Health Matters

No immunizations are required by the Indian Government to enter India, unless you have been to a country with yellow fever in the last six-months. Several immunizations are recommended by the US Center for Disease Control. A copy of the CDC recommended immunization list and additional health information is included in our “Pre-Departure” packet.

## Refunds for Unused Portions of Trip

All our pricing is based on pre-contracted rates and no refunds can be made for any accommodations, services, or features not taken. Please see our “Terms & Conditions” for detailed cancellation and refund policy.

### **\*\*\*Important Note\*\*\***

Destination Himalaya and its representatives in India will attempt to adhere to this itinerary as far as possible. Because of the nature of adventure travel, it may be necessary to make changes due to weather, road conditions, government restrictions and other variables beyond our control. Destination Himalaya and its representatives in India reserve the right to alter this itinerary as necessary. We will attempt to inform all participants of changes as far in advance as possible. No refund will be given for changes in the field due to the above conditions. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participant.

Please review all Terms of Booking and Details in our current application packet.



## WHY TRAVEL WITH DESTINATION HIMALAYA?

### **Commitment To Intelligent Travel**

At Destination Himalaya, our primary mission is to successfully fulfill our “Commitment To Intelligent Travel.” We are committed to ensuring travel that is both ecologically responsible and culturally sensitive. Out of respect for the natural environment and the people of the regions in which we operate, we uphold the highest standards of low-impact and sustainable tourism. Our goal is to ensure a mutually beneficial encounter between our clients and the proud people of Asia, and to help preserve the pristine beauty of this special land by continually striving to exceed “industry-best standards.”

Our “Commitment to Intelligent Travel” stresses education and understanding. We do our utmost to educate our clients about the destinations they will visit prior to their departure, during their time in Asia, and after they return home. Our goal is to integrate the best parts of travel - exposure to culture, art, geography, history and recreation - with the best part of human nature - the desire to connect and improve each other’s lives.

Satisfied past clients include the National Geographic Expeditions, National Geographic Committee for Research & Exploration, American Museum of Natural History, Grace Family Foundation, Wharton Business School, Goldie Hawn, to name a few.

### **Commitment To Safety**

Not only do we do everything in our power to see that our trips operate safely, but we try and stack the deck in our favor. All of our trip leaders have First Aid training and majority of them are WFR (Wilderness first Responder) certified. DH staff actively monitors the political situation of our destinations on a daily basis.

Along with USA Department of State, DH also monitors: advisories from the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom. When it comes to personal health, we require that for certain trips (such as those involving trekking or high-altitude destinations) clients get clearance from a medical doctor in order to be accepted on the trip. In addition, every client who travels with Destination Himalaya is automatically covered by our medical and evacuation insurance. This coverage includes \$25,000 for medical expenses, \$500,000 for emergency medical transportation, \$750 for a trip delay, and \$300 for a baggage delay.

### **Commitment To Giving Back**

From our inception and initial involvement with the SOS Tibetan orphanage in Chuglamsar, Ladakh in 1989, Destination Himalaya, along with our clients and partners in Asia, has made “giving back” to local communities paramount. Dealing exclusively with small, local organizations, our goal is to be highly involved in our chosen projects. This hands-on approach amounts to much more than just giving money. We become actively involved in each project and maintain that involvement over time.

Every year our staff and our Asian partners visit the communities and institutions we sponsor, to monitor the status of our projects. This creates an invaluable atmosphere of trust and understanding as a long-term relationship develops between Destination Himalaya and our beneficiaries. For details on the specific projects we support, please visit our website, [destinationhimalaya.com/Giving Back](http://destinationhimalaya.com/Giving Back).

We employ only locals in all of our overseas operations and when required we have invested time and finances to educate and train locals to become valued members of our field staff e.g.: in Tibet, from drivers to management we only employ Tibetans; similarly in Nepal our entire staff is Nepalese.

### **Commitment To Sustainable Tourism**

Long before the global notion of “sustainable tourism” arose, Destination Himalaya understood the sometimes-fragile qualities of the landscapes and cultures of South Asia. For this reason, we are dedicated to travel that is both ecologically responsible and culturally sensitive. Destination Himalaya feels that the tenets of Sustainable Tourism necessitate interaction with the people and traditions of our host countries. We never disturb prayer or rituals, yet we are always open to communicating. We enter each situation with a willingness to learn and a desire to share our own ways in a respectful manner. Our clients taste indigenous cuisine, experience traditional dance and music, and revel in the glorious art and architecture that permeates the South Asian lands. As travelers, we are in a position to share what we have witnessed - be it the deteriorating condition of a monument, the disappearance of traditional life due to harmful incursions of modernity, or the endangerment of an ecosystem. Our clients become empowered through our trips, and we encourage them to communicate what they have seen and learned to others at home.

Additionally, Destination Himalaya’s Bay Area office and all of its India ground operations are now carbon-neutral. We worked with Stone Valley Partners to calculate our carbon impact and are offsetting it by supporting carbon reduction projects in India (Thar Desert Wind Farm, Jaisalmer and Panchpatta Wind Power, Maharashtra). We carefully choose hotels with environmentally sensitive policies; in the backwaters of Kerala, our clients enjoy the Sauvar Nagam, the region’s first eco-friendly houseboat as it is outfitted with solar panels for power and hot water and a state-of-the-art septic system to prevent wastewater leakage.

DH’s commitment to sustainable practices continues at home, as the company brings these sensibilities to its US operations. All our marketing (including color brochure) and other company materials are printed locally on 100% recycled paper using soy-based ink. DH hires and buys only in the local arena, and strives to exceed environmental standards at home, as well as abroad.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

<p><b>Destination Himalaya</b> 807 Grant Ave, Suite A Novato, CA 94945</p> <p>Telephone: 1.415.895.5283 or 1.800 MY INDIA (1.800.694.6342)</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:info@DestinationHimalaya.net">info@DestinationHimalaya.net</a> <a href="http://www.DestinationHimalaya.net">www.DestinationHimalaya.net</a></p>	
<p><b>DH – India</b> 66 LGF Charmwood Plaza, Eros Garden Faridabad, 11009 India Email: <a href="mailto:info@DHIndia.com">info@DHIndia.com</a></p>	<p><b>DH – Tibet</b> Room 102, 4/5 Lhayun Xiao Qu, Quzhi Qongwei Lu, Lhasa, Tibet 850000 PR of China Email: <a href="mailto:info@DHTibet.com">info@DHTibet.com</a></p>

## Recent Accolades



India, Tibet, Nepal & Sri Lanka



Itinerary Updated – March 29, 2012