

## Honeymoon to The Maldives and India



Prepared for  
Steppe Travel Clients

## QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

Day 1	Depart London
Day 2	Arrive Male / Maldives
Day 3	Maldives
Day 4	Maldives
Day 5	Maldives
Day 6	Maldives
Day 7	Maldives
Day 8	Maldives / Delhi
Day 9	Delhi/Ranthambore
Day 10	Ranthambore
Day 11	Ranthambore
Day 12	Ranthambore / Delhi
Day 13	Delhi/Udaipur
Day 14	Udaipur
Day 15	Udaipur / Jaipur
Day 16	Jaipur
Day 17	Jaipur/Alwar
Day 18	Alwar/Delhi
Day 19	Depart Delhi

## DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1

**Depart London / Male**

Flights booked independently of Steppes Travel.

Day 2

**Arrive Male / Maldives**

On arrival in Male you are met by a representative and transferred to Mihiri Resort by sea plane where you spend 6 nights.



*Mirihi Island Resort is located on a secluded tropical island in the South Ari Atoll, approximately 85 kilometres south of the capital Male. A picturesque and breathtaking 30 minute seaplane ride from Male will bring you here. This emerald gem is just 350 meters long and 50 meters wide with a sparkling palm-fringed beach of fine white sand. Walk barefoot if you choose, this is as close to nature as you can get. Blessed with white talc beaches, turquoise blue waters and one of the most amazing house-reefs, it is truly a vision of paradise on earth.*

Overnight in a water villa on a half board basis (breakfast and dinner).

Day 3

**Maldives**

Overnight in a water villa on a half board basis (breakfast and dinner).

Day 4

**Maldives**

Overnight in a water villa on a half board basis (breakfast and dinner).

Day 5

**Maldives**

Overnight in a water villa on a half board basis (breakfast and dinner).

Day 6

**Maldives**

Overnight in a water villa on a half board basis (breakfast and dinner).

Day 7

**Maldives**

Overnight in a water villa on a half board basis (breakfast and dinner).

Day 8

**Maldives / Delhi**

Transfer back to Male in good time to catch the Air India flight IC966 to Bangalore, departing at 12.50 and arriving at 15.30. Connect with the Kingfisher airlines flight IT206 to Delhi, departing at 17.20 and arriving at 20.10.



On arrival in Delhi you are met and driven to The Imperial hotel.

*The Imperial Hotel is centrally located in Central New Delhi on Janpath, five blocks south of Connaught Place, the main commercial hub of the city. The hotel is a wonderful mixture of styles - Victorian, old colonial and art deco. In the last eighteen months the Imperial has been extensively renovated. It has well tended gardens and a lovely pool. The Spice Route restaurant is heralded*

as one of the top ten restaurants in the world by Condé Nast Traveler, - serving Southeast Asian cuisine, has been designed to reflect the journey of spices from the Malabar Coast in Kerala through Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Indonesia to Thailand and Vietnam. The Restaurant is an overwhelming visual depiction of the art and culture that travelled through these regions. We highly recommend asking us to make your reservation in advance

Overnight at Imperial Hotel Delhi in a heritage room on a bed & breakfast basis.

#### Day 9



#### Delhi/Ranthambore

Transfer to Delhi railway station to board the 2060 Kota Jan Shatabdi Express train to Sawai Madhopur, departing at 13.20 and arriving at 18.02. On arrival you are met and driven to Vanyavilas.



The first luxury jungle resort in India, Vanyavilas is located in Ranthambhore - Sawai Madhopur, northwest India. The camp is situated adjacent to the famous Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve. The luxury resort is set over 20 acres of land, which has over 1500 trees including orchards of mango, lemon, guava and Indian gooseberry. There are pathways throughout the property with bridges crossing an 850ft. long water-body with lotuses and colorful fish. Vanyavilas consists of 25 luxury air-conditioned tents with their own private walled garden located discreetly so as to ensure maximum privacy. From virtually all tents, views of the nearby hills are afforded. The observation tower at the far end of the property provides a marvellous view of the entire area.

Overnight at Vanya Vilas in a tent on a full board basis.

#### Day 10

#### Ranthambore

Morning and afternoon jungle safaris by jeep or canter.

Overnight at Vanya Vilas in a tent on a full board basis.

#### Day 11

#### Ranthambore

Morning and afternoon jungle safaris by jeep or canter.

Overnight at Vanya Vilas in a tent on a full board basis.

#### Day 12

#### Ranthambore/Shahpura Bagh

This morning you are met and driven south towards Udaipur, a drive of approximately 4 hours. Break your journey at Shahpura bagh.



Shahpura Bagh is a hidden gem located in rural Rajasthan in between Jaipur and Udaipur. It is a delicate boutique heritage property consisting of only 8 rooms. The property is 120 years old and was the home of the rulers of Shahpura. Set in 30 acres of garden and pasture and surrounded by lakes, it is a very special and ultimately peaceful little oasis. With its idyllic and unspoilt rural setting, this is a place to come for at least a couple of nights as it provides a restful break in an otherwise hectic, city-based itinerary. All rooms are centrally air-conditioned, with overhead fans, and attached bathrooms with bath and shower. On account of the buildings not being purpose built, all rooms vary in shape, size and design. There is one dining room in the main building where meals are eaten on very cold or very times of year. At other times, dining is al fresco, in the sunshine or candlelit under the stars, in the

*garden. The cuisine comprises simple Continental, and Indian recipes and is organic whenever possible as much of the vegetables come from their own vegetable garden. The hotel offers a buffet and table d'hote dining. Room service is also readily available. Special private dinners can also be arranged.*

*The real delight of Shahpura Bagh is the chance to explore nearby local villages and get off the main tourist routes.*

Overnight Shahpura Bagh in a suite on a bed & breakfast basis.

#### Day 13

##### **Shahpura Bagh/Udaipur**

This morning you are met and driven to Udaipur, a journey of approximately 4 hours drive.



On arrival you are met and driven to the Oberoi Udaivilas.

*The Oberoi Udaivilas is a luxury resort situated amidst 30 acres of landscaped gardens and grand courtyards. Conceived in the royal tradition of the palaces of Mewar, the resort offers an experience of grandeur and majesty. Corridors, domes covered in gold leaf, hand-painted murals, pavilions, arches and fountains recreate the romance of the past. The resort offers an ideal base from which to explore the fabled city of Udaipur, renowned for its palaces, lakes and colourful bazaars.*

Overnight at Udaivilas in a premier lake view room on a bed & breakfast basis.

#### Day 14

##### **Udaipur**

Morning sightseeing tour of Udaipur with an English speaking guide.

Afternoon at leisure to explore in your own time.

Overnight at Udaivilas in a premier lake view room on a bed & breakfast basis.

#### Day 15

##### **Udaipur / Jaipur**

Today you are transferred back to Udaipur airport to catch the Kingfisher Airlines flight IT 4301 to Jaipur, departing at 14.00 and arriving at 15.00. On arrival you are met and driven to the Samode Haveli. The rest of the day at leisure.



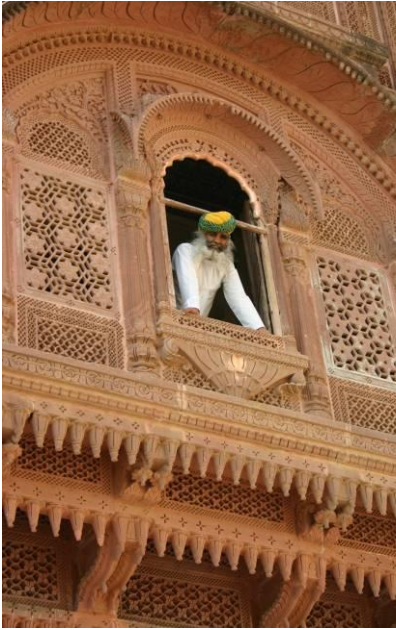
*The townhouse of the Samode family, this is another gem, lying in the heart of Jaipur. It is home to some fabulous frescoes and, with its large gardens, it is difficult to believe that from this sanctuary you can stroll out into one of the city's busiest streets. As with Samode Palace, the bedrooms are scattered around the rambling building and are superbly decorated. The huge swimming pool is one of Jaipur's finest and is a draw in itself. Samode Haveli is the only option for anyone wanting a heritage hotel in Jaipur.*

Overnight at Samode Haveli in a deluxe room on a bed & breakfast basis.

#### Day 16

##### **Jaipur**

Today your sightseeing of Jaipur city will include the Hawa Mahal, Observatory, and the City Palace. The most photographed building



in Jaipur must be the Hawa Mahal ( the palace of winds ) which is a tall, oddly shaped structure. It is designed one room deep but raised on five storey's so that the angled and lacy latticed windows may capture the slightest wisp of breeze. It was used for the ladies of the royal family to watch processions and festivities on the street below without being seen themselves.

The City Palace is a fascinating series of gateways and courtyards. Maharajah Singh's Observatory, Jantar-Mantar, was constructed in 1716 and was unique of its time because of its precision and was in use till the middle of the 20th century. It is considered to be the largest stone observatory in the world.

Visit the Amber Fort and ascend the fort on elephant back. The fortified palace of Amber stands on a high terraced plateau overlooking the Maota lake. The location is superb - surrounded as it is by low hills, their ragged crests silhouetted against a never-ending line of fort walls and watch-towers.

Overnight at Samode Haveli in a deluxe room on a bed & breakfast basis.

## Day 17

### Jaipur/Alwar

Today you are driven to Alwar, a 3 hour drive.

#### Amanbagh



Surrounded by a lush oasis, this modern day pink sandstone palace was created with every possible contemporary comfort in mind without neglecting to pay homage to the traditional architecture and design of the region. The main building is set on three levels and beyond it stretches the enormous swimming pool, informal dining area and wading pool all set in landscaped gardens.

Amanbagh evokes the grandeur of Moghul architecture in its domed cupolas and inner courtyards. Fruit trees, mature palm and eucalyptus grace a verdant oasis in a contemporary retreat paying elegant homage to India's golden age.

This is a wonderful place to stay to experience some of the untouched parts of Rajasthan. Aman offer some unique insights into the region, all the while keeping away from tourist sites and providing a great contrast to the royal cities you will have experienced. A stay here will no doubt be a highlight. Amanbagh is the only hotel in Alwar.



Whilst here you can choose from a plethora of outdoor activities within the immediate vicinity of Amanbagh, including trekking, horseback and camelback rides to the nearby Madar Baba Ki Chattri for spectacular 360-degree views of the surrounding area. Rowing on Ajabgarh Lake during the months of August until February can also be arranged. Of particular interest are tours to traditional *Meena* villages. Unique to the region, the *Meena* are a minority race who have settled over the centuries in the nearby hidden valleys. Renowned for their colourful dress, jewellery and crafts, the *Meena* have retained their traditional lifestyle that embraces few hints of modernity.

Overnight at Amanbagh in a courtyard haveli suite on a bed & breakfast basis.

**Day 18**

**Alwar**

Day at leisure or explore the surrounding countryside. Activities arranged through Amanbagh.

Overnight at Amanbagh in a courtyard haveli suite on a bed & breakfast basis.

**Day 19**

**Alwar/Delhi**

After breakfast you are met and driven to Delhi, a journey of approximately 6 hours. There will of course be stops en route to the Shangri La Hotel.



*Centrally located amid landscaped gardens in the historic government district, Shangri-La's - Eros Hotel, New Delhi's bustling metropolis. Guests of this New Delhi hotel can enjoy an excellent range of facilities and services that includes a fine selection of restaurants, a spa and a range of fitness options.*

Overnight at Shangri La Hotel in a deluxe room on a bed & breakfast basis.

**Day 20**

**Delhi / UK**

Transfer and depart Delhi.

Flights booked independently of Steppes Travel.

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## ITINERARY NOTES

**Price From:** £5,995 per person

**Includes:** International flight in economy class, flight from Male to Delhi, domestic flights within India, accommodation in a double room with breakfast throughout, full board at Ranthambore, train fares, 6 game drives, transport and transfers by private vehicle, sightseeing with English speaking local guides, entrances to all museums and monuments mentioned, transfers by speedplane.

Honeymoon offer at Mihiri includes complimentary fruit basket and a bottle of sparkling wine in room upon arrival.

**Excludes:** Items of a personal nature, additional meals/drinks, gratuities, travel insurance and visa charges.

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Following a childhood in Nepal and extensive travel throughout India, Bhutan and other Himalayan regions, Charlotte specialises in creating tailor made itineraries to the Indian subcontinent. Being so passionate about these regions, she travels 2 or 3 times a year to keep her knowledge fresh and current and has recently returned from an extensive trip to Bhutan.

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