

# HIMACHAL PRADESH





**01. DELHI**

Take a tour through the heart of Old Delhi from the back seat of your very own rickshaw – capturing the unique buzz of *Chandni Chowk*, & *Jama Masjid* – then kick back in our luxe hotel.



**02. AMRITSAR**

Home to *Sikism's* holiest shrine, the glittering *Golden Temple* easily rates alongside the Taj Mahal. We'll dine beside pilgrims before joining the nightly throng to witness the incredible *Palki Sahib*.



**03. DALAI LAMA**

*Lhamo Dhondub*, the 14th Dalai Lama, has been exiled from his native Tibet for over 50 years, and is often found sharing stories with monks and tourists alike in the gardens of his new home of *Dharamshala*.



**04. DHARAMSHALA**

*Dharamshala* (or '*Little Lhasa*') refers in Hindi to a shelter or rest house for spiritual pilgrims. Here, we'll have a private session with the monks, and understand more about Buddhism and Tibetan culture.



**1**



**05. KORA**

Shoot the *Kora* – a night-time walk following Tibetan monks praying and chanting mantras while walking – an incredible spectacle and one of the highlights of the tour.

# HIGHLIGHTS INDIA

SPIRITUAL ADVENTURES IN  
THE LOWER HIMALAYAS



**06. MCLEODGANJ**

We'll take a hike through cedar forests around *McLeodganj* to meet some locals at *Naddi* village, then a quick cuppa before capturing some spectacular sunset panoramics.



**07. KANGRA VALLEY**

Lose yourself in the surrounding lower Himalayas as we explore the stunning *Kangra Valley*, with rolling forests of pine, orchards, tea gardens and terraced fields.



**08. TOY TRAIN**

Gently meandering through a maze of hills and valleys, the local 'toy train' offers enchantingly scenic views and chance to meet locals commuting to work.



**09. JUDGES COURT**

The *Judges Court* is a 300-year old ancestral home-turned boutique Hotel in the medieval village of *Pragpur*; the first certified heritage village of India.



**10. CHANDIGARH**

Like nowhere else in India, *Chandigarh* is the first planned city in India, and is known internationally for its architecture, art and chic urban design, by *Le Corbusier*.



# ITINERARY

## 12 DAYS

SPIRITUAL ADVENTURES  
IN THE LOWER  
HIMALAYAS



# SEE WHERE THE *DALAI LAMA* CALLS HOME

Join us for twelve unforgettable days of sheer escapism, breathtaking scenery and creative adventures ...

### DAYS 1&2 DELHI/AMRITSAR

We'll meet you straight off the plane and some deserved rest and recuperation at our boutique Delhi hotel – *The Visaya* – where our team will welcome you to our 11-day adventure through Northern India. Next day and up early, we'll board the *Shatabdi Express* to Amritsar in time for some lunch, then its straight into our first session on photography at our quaint country house Haveli. We'll rapidly get you compliant with that tricky looking (but not really when you know how) digital SLR, then take you out to try out your new found skills and explore the narrow 17th-century zig-zag streets that form the historic centre of Amritsar. At night, we'll kick back under the stars and dine in the magical gardens of our heritage spa Haveli.

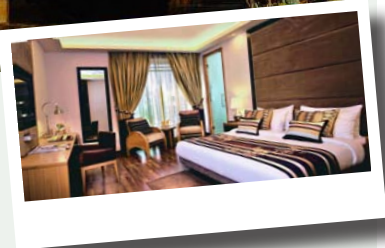


### DID YOU KNOW?

The Indian flag has three horizontal bands of colour: saffron for courage and sacrifice, white for truth and peace, and green for faith, fertility, and chivalry.

### DAYS 3&4 AMRITSAR

Next morning, we'll check out the stunning Golden Temple – one of the most sacred pilgrim spots for Sikhs. Built on 67 square feet of marble, the *Maharaja Ranjit Singh* had the upper half covered with 400kg of gold. In the afternoon, we'll build on our new skills, exploring exposure, shutter speed, aperture, and learn to craft perfectly exposed pictures just like the professionals. In the evening, we'll return to the Golden Temple and dine en-masse alongside the local devotees – or *Sangat* – in the community dining hall. Then together, you witness the *Palki Sahib* ceremony where the *Guru Granth Sahib* – the Sikh scripture – is returned to its nightly resting place. Next day, we head by road to Dharamshala – the home of the *Dalai Lama*.



## BOUTIQUE SLEEPS

We've hand picked the finest the region has to offer.

“Idyllic, unforgettable stay in an authentic Indian mansion.”

*Tripadvisor*

From colonial country estates with panoramic Himalayan views to boutique, modern city hotels, you're sure to take a snooze in complete style on this trip to Dharamshala and Himachal Pradesh.

We've hand-picked some truly hip hotels for this trip, from *The Judges Court*, a 10-room Himalayan manor house, in the medieval hamlet of Praggpur, to the chic, luxurious *Visaya*, located in the artist district of New Delhi.

DAYS

**DHARAMSHALA**

**5/6** Fresh from our previous nights *Kora* – a night-time walk following the monks praying and chanting mantras while walking (then a private session interacting with the monks at the monastery, to learn more about Buddhism and Tibetan culture) – we spend the morning practicing new skills in composition, lens choice and basic lighting. Come afternoon, we'll try out landscapes around the mountainous Moteodganj, with a light trek through cedar forests and stopping at meditation caves where monks retreat for part of the year. At our destination of Naddi village, you'll get chance to meet some locals, then prepare your tripod for breathtaking sunset views across the lower Himalayas. Next morning, we'll tour through the jaw-dropping sights of the Kangra Valley, then a short hop over to our next base – The Judges Court – a large country manor in the centre of medieval village of Pragpur, the first certified heritage village of India. This is stunning country.

DAYS

**PRAGPUR**

**7/8** Now we have mastered the basics of photography, today we spend time with you 1-on-1 to discuss your own emerging style, and give you professional tips on how to create the kind of pictures that you'd love to take. The rest of the day is yours to explore, kick-back and relax or brush-up on some of the techniques. Next day, we'll avoid the tourist train and join local commuters for an astonishingly beautiful hour-long toy train ride through the Kangra Valley – chance to really capture the heart of rural local life. Later, we'll understand some of the more creative techniques – tips our pros spent years finding out – then take a look at some of the past masters in photography, from Leibovitz to Cartier-Bresson, and understand from the classics what makes a great picture great. Pragpur truly is a place for the ultimate getaway.

DAYS

**CHANDIGARH**

**9/10** This morning, we'll leave our mountain hangout and drive south to Chandigarh – the capital of both Punjab and Haryana – but also the first Indian city to have been designed and planned by a single architect – Le Corbusier. Geometric, green and quite unlike anywhere else in India, this stunning living museum provides the perfect backdrop (and open space) to trying out some more complex techniques in photography. Here we will work together to prepare, construct and develop a final project – understanding your style and strengths to produce a small set of images you never thought you could take. The next day, our team will be on hand to support you through developing these images. After some nightfall, we'll board the *Shatabdi Express* once again for a short 3-hour train journey back to Delhi, and the welcome arms of The *Visaya*, our home for a few days.

DAYS

**DELHI**

**11/12** Today, we'll tour the sights of Delhi, touring the sights of Old Delhi – including the Jama Masjid, Red Fort and the buzzing streets of Chandni Chowk – using your own private rickshaw. That night, we'll have a gala dinner and present our final assignment to the group, before partying the night away under the stars. Next morning, you'll get some final 1-on-1 feedback from our professional tutors on your progress, emerging style and tips on where next to take your photography. That afternoon, we sadly say our farewells, exchange email addresses with new found friends (and creative collaborators) and board the plane for the trip back home – where you can have chance to reflect upon this incredible journey through the majestic hill stations, buddhist shrines, breathtaking Himalayan scenery and modern Indian cities.



**ITINERARY**  
**12 DAYS**  
SPIRITUAL ADVENTURES  
IN THE LOWER  
HIMALAYAS

**HOW ARE WE DIFFERENT?**



**OUR TUITION**  
Our lively creative holidays steer well away from one of those too-techy, heavy courses; instead we use a mixture of hands-on demos, non-techy tutorials and individual 1-on-1 sessions to take you from Beginner to Bailey in no time. And don't just take our word for it; we've bagged a brace of awards in the broadsheets.



**OUR SLEEPS**  
We at Creative Escapes believe if you work hard, then relax hard. That's why we meticulously hand-pick the finest boutique hotels the region has to offer (and give you their names so you can check them out). That way, after all of your creative efforts, you can get a comfortable nights snooze in absolute style.



**OUR EXTRAS**  
After hours private sessions with Dalai Lama's monks? Or a train ride through the valleys fronting the lower Himalayas? No problem, all extras, tours, guides, and that little bit more are all included on a Creative Escapes holiday. So you don't need to worry about a thing.

**SUMMARY**  
**12 DAYS**  
All the information you need to prepare yourself for the trip of a lifetime

**Our 11-day Indian Retreat, including all accommodation, most meals, all tours, all additional extras, transfers and tuition is £2,275**

**INCLUDED**

All tuition, internal flights, transport, tours, entrance fees, guides, transfers, most meals, twin-share accommodation in boutique hotels is included - only evening meals & single rooms are extra.

**TRAVELLING**

Never for more than a few hours (we're on holiday after all), we'll mix Victorian trains, air-con buses, and good old-fashioned trekking to transport you around Himachal Pradesh in energetic style.

**SLEEPING**

We're well known for sniffing out those boutique gems at each location; most are Heritage-class or above - a category reserved for only the most distinctive hotels in the country.

**SKILL LEVELS**

Ever wanted to figure out how to use that digital camera you've purchased? Whether absolute beginner or seasoned snapper, our team will individually guide you to results that will make you smile.

**EATING**

We cater for all tastes - and fastidiously check all our gourmet eateries, be they in the gardens of a colonial country manor or sat beside the monks in the temple. Great food is guaranteed with us.

**HOW TO BOOK**

We only take a maximum of 8 clients per group, so we tend to book up quickly. To reserve your place, email us using the contact form and only a 20% deposit is required to secure your spot.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

The following booking conditions together with the general information contained here, form the basis of your contract with Creative Escapes Limited. In these Booking Conditions, you, means the party leader and your means all persons named on the booking including anyone who is added at a later date. We, us and our means Creative Escapes.

### MAKING YOUR BOOKING

To make a booking, our booking form must be completed. This must be signed by the party leader. The party leader must be at least 18 years of age and must be authorised to make the booking on the basis of these Booking Conditions by all persons named on the booking. The completed and signed form must then be sent to us together with the payments referred to below. Once we have received your Booking Form and all appropriate payments, we will, subject to availability, confirm your holiday by issuing a Confirmation of Booking. A contract will exist as soon as we issue this confirmation. Changes to these Booking Conditions or the general information shown on our website will only be valid if confirmed in writing. If any information given on the confirmation or any other document appears to be incorrect or incomplete, please inform us at once, as it may not be possible to make changes later. We regret that we cannot accept any liability if we are not notified of any inaccuracies in any document within ten days of our sending it out.

### THE COST OF YOUR HOLIDAY

The prices shown on our website were calculated on 21 February 2011 on the basis of known costs and exchange rates of £1=Euro 1.180, as shown in the 'Financial Times Guide to World currencies'. We reserve the right to a) increase or decrease the prices of unsold holidays at any time; b) correct mistakes in advertised, quoted or confirmed prices. The price of your chosen holiday will be confirmed at the time of booking.

### NO SURCHARGE GUARANTEE

Once we have confirmed the price of your arrangements (errors or omissions excepted) it is fully guaranteed and will not be subject to any surcharges. Payment You are responsible for making all payments to Creative Escapes Ltd. You can make payment to us direct to our business account or by credit/debit card (we accept most types, including Maestro, Solo, MasterCard, Visa Credit, Visa Debit, Electron, JCB and various corporate cards) or by cheque. We take a 20% deposit on booking to confirm your reservation, then the final 80% eight weeks before departure. If you do not make full payment to us by eight weeks before the course commences this will be a breach of the contract between us entitling us to consider the booking as not confirmed by you.

### CHANGES BY YOU

Please read each of our booking documents carefully as soon as received and contact us immediately if any information appears to be incorrect or incomplete as it may not be possible to make changes later. If you should wish at any time to change your arrangements in any way, for example, your chosen departure date, we will do our utmost to accommodate your request but this will not always be possible. You must confirm in writing independent any requests for changes to be made. We reserve the right to make a £20 amendment charge per booking form and will pass on to you any costs we incur from our suppliers in making the alterations requested. You should be aware that these costs are likely to increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made.

### CANCELLATION BY YOU

Until ten weeks prior to your date of departure the fees paid by any person who withdraws from your group may be transferred to another suitable replacement without financial penalty. From ten weeks to your date of departure the price per paying guest, free place allowance, discounts and concessions are fixed. Cancellation charges per paying person cancelling (without replacement) are as follows: More than ten weeks before departure date: we refund the deposit without financial penalty. 56-22 days before departure: we retain 75% of the full price per paying person cancelling. 21 days or less: we retain 100% of the full price per paying person cancelling. The effective date of cancellation is the working day on which written notification is received in our office. You may be able to reclaim cancellation charges under the terms of your insurance policy. Claims must be made direct to your insurance company.

### CHANGES AND CANCELLATION BY US

The arrangements advertised by us are given in good faith. As arrangements are planned so far in advance

it may occasionally be necessary for us to make changes and we reserve the right to do so at any time. For example, if the minimum group size is not reached or the minimum number of clients required for a particular travel arrangement not reached, we may have to cancel your booking. If it is necessary to cancel your travel arrangements we will pay to you compensation as set out in this clause. Occasionally, we have to make a "significant change". "Significant changes" include the following changes when made before departure; a change of accommodation to that of a lower official classification or standard for the whole or a major part of the time you are away, a change of accommodation area for the whole or a major part of the time you are away, a change of outward departure time or overall length of time you are away of twelve or more hours, a change of UK departure point to one which is more inconvenient to you. If we make a significant change or cancel, we will tell you as soon as possible. Should we have to cancel or make a significant change to your booking at any time after it has been confirmed by us and before your tour is due to start for any reasons other than (a) your failure to pay the balance due on time or (b) your failure to advise us of all relevant details before the booking is confirmed or (c) reasons of force majeure, we will always offer you the choice of an alternative tour with us (with a refund of any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value), or a 100% refund of all monies paid within 14 days if the alternative tour offered is not acceptable. In addition, if we cancel or significantly change your booking after it has been confirmed other than for the reasons given above, we will pay you compensation as shown below: Significant change or cancellation made by us more than 10 weeks before departure: We pay £10 compensation per paying member. 56 to 22 days before departure: we pay £20 compensation per paying member. 21 days or less: we pay £30 compensation per paying member. Very rarely, we may be forced by reasons of force majeure to change or terminate your holiday after departure but before the scheduled end of your time away. This is extremely unlikely but if this situation does occur, we regret we will be unable to make any refunds unless we obtain refunds from our suppliers, nor can we pay any compensation or meet any costs or expenses you incur as a result. Neither can we be held liable for any losses or costs, nor failure to perform or improper performance of the contract, due to force majeure. Such events may include war or threat of war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, adverse weather conditions, fire and all similar events outside our control. If we are unable to provide the booked travel arrangements, you can either have a Refund of all monies paid or accept an offer of alternative arrangements of comparable standard from us, if available. If it is necessary to cancel your travel arrangements we will pay to you compensation as set out in this clause.

### PERSONAL INJURY UNCONNECTED WITH YOUR BOOKED TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

If you, or any member of your party, suffer death, illness or injury whilst overseas arising out of an activity which does not form part of your package travel arrangements or an excursion arranged through us, we shall at our discretion, offer advice, guidance and assistance. Where legal action is contemplated and you want our assistance, you must obtain our written consent prior to commencement of proceedings. Our consent will be given subject to your undertaking to assign any costs/benefits received under any relevant insurance policy to ourselves. We limit the cost of our assistance to you or any member of your party to £5,000.

### CONDITIONS OF SUPPLIERS

Many of the services, which make up your tour arrangements are provided by independent suppliers. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable International Conventions, and may affect your rights to compensation. This website is our responsibility, as your holiday operator. It is not issued on behalf of, and does not commit any organisations/suppliers/carriers whose services are featured in it.

### OUR LIABILITY TO YOU

If the contract we have with you is not performed or is improperly performed by us, or our suppliers we will pay you appropriate compensation if this has affected the enjoyment of your travel arrangements. However we will not be liable where any failure in

the performance of the contract is due to: you; or a third party unconnected with the provision of the arrangements and where the failure is unforeseeable or unavoidable; or unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond our control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all due care had been exercised; or an event which we or our suppliers, even with all due care, could not foresee or forestall. Our liability, except in cases involving death, injury or illness, shall be limited to a maximum of two times the cost of your travel arrangements. Our liability will also be limited in accordance with and/or in an identical manner to a) The contractual terms of the companies that provide the transportation for your travel arrangements. These terms are incorporated into this contract; and b) Any relevant international convention, for example the Montreal Convention in respect of travel by air, the Athens Convention in respect of travel by sea, the Berne Convention in respect of travel by rail and the Paris Convention in respect of the provision of accommodation, which limit the amount of compensation that you can claim for death, injury, delay to passengers and loss, damage and delay to luggage. We are to be regarded as having all benefit of any limitation of compensation contained in these or any conventions. Under EU law you have rights in some circumstances to refunds and/or compensation from your airline in cases of denied boarding, cancellation or delay to flights. Full details of these rights will be publicised at EU airports and will also be available from airlines. However reimbursement in such cases will not automatically entitle you to a refund of your holiday cost from us. Your right to a refund and/or compensation from us is set out in clause 5. If any payments to you are due from us, any payment made to you by the airline will be deducted from this amount. We will not, however, be responsible for any injury, illness, death, loss (for example loss of enjoyment), damage, expense, cost or other sum or claim of any description whatsoever which results from any of the following: a) the fault of the person(s) affected or any member(s) of their party or b) the fault of a third party not connected with the provision of your holiday which we could not have predicted or avoided or c) an event or circumstances which we or the supplier of the service(s) in question, could not have predicted or avoid even after taking all reasonable care. d) the fault of anyone who was not carrying out work for us generally or in particular, at the time. In addition, we will not be responsible where you do not enjoy your holiday or suffer any problems because of a reason you did not tell us about when you booked your holiday or where any problems you suffer did not result from any breach of our contract or other fault of ourselves or, where we were responsible for them, our suppliers or agents or where any losses, expenses, costs or other sum you have suffered relate to any business. The promises we made to you about the services we have agreed to provide or arrange as part of your contract - and the laws and regulations of the country in which your claim or complaint occurred - will be used as the basis for deciding whether the services in question had been properly provided. This will be the case even if the services did not comply with the laws and regulations of the UK which would have applied had those services been provided in the UK. You must provide ourselves, and our insurers with all assistance we may reasonably require. You must also tell us, and the supplier concerned about your claim or complaint as set out below. If asked to do so, you must transfer to us, or our insurers any rights you have against the supplier or whoever else is responsible for your claim or complaint (if the person concerned is under 18, their parent or guardian must do so). You must also agree to cooperate fully with us, and our insurers if we or our insurers want to enforce any rights which are transferred.

### BEHAVIOUR

When you book with us you accept responsibility for any damage or loss caused by you or any member of your party. If, in our reasonable opinion, or the opinion of any person in authority, you or any members of your party behave in such a way as to cause danger, upset or distress to any third party, or damage to property, we are entitled, without prior notice, to terminate the holiday of the person(s) concerned. In this event the person(s) concerned will be required to leave the accommodation or other service and we will have no responsibility towards such person(s), including any return travel arrangements. No refunds will be made and we will not pay any expenses or costs incurred as a result of the termination. Any costs incurred through inappropriate behaviour of you or any member of your party will be payable by you.

### SPECIAL REQUESTS AND MEDICAL PROBLEMS

If you have any special request, you must advise us at the time of booking and clearly note it on your booking form. Although we will endeavour to pass any reasonable requests on to the relevant supplier, we regret we cannot guarantee any request will be complied with unless we have confirmed this in writing. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier or the inclusion of the special request on your confirmation or any other documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met unless and until specifically confirmed. All special requests are subject to availability. If you or any member of your party has any medical problem or disability, which may affect your holiday, please tell us before you confirm your booking so that we can advise as to the suitability of the chosen arrangements. In any event, you must give us full details in writing at the time of booking. If we reasonably feel unable to properly accommodate the particular needs of the person concerned, we will reserve the right to decline their reservation or, if full details are not given at the time of booking, cancel when we become aware of these details.

### PASSPORTS, VISAS, AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

The passport, visa and health requirements applicable at the time of printing to British citizens for the holidays are shown at Post Offices throughout the UK. Requirements may change and you must check the up to date position in good time before departure. Information on health is contained in the Department of Health leaflet T6 (Health Advice for Travellers) available from your local Department of Health Office and most Post Offices. For European holidays, you should obtain a completed and issued EHC Card prior to departure. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of all necessary travel and health documents before departure. All costs incurred in obtaining such documentation, must be paid by you. We regret we cannot accept any liability if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country due to failure on your part to carry correct documentation. If you or any member of your party is not a British citizen or holds a non British passport, you must check passport and visa requirements with the French Embassy. If failure to have any necessary travel or other documents results in fines, surcharges or other financial penalty being imposed on us, you will be responsible for reimbursing us accordingly. For all travel abroad we recommend you take FCO advice.

### DELAY

In the event of a delay of over 3 hours, we will endeavour to provide light refreshments and, in the case of a delay of over 6 hours, a main meal. Delays of over 12 hours are covered by the inclusive insurance.

### SAFETY STANDARDS

The requirements and standards of the country in which any services are supplied are those, which apply to those services. As a general rule these requirements and standards will not be the same as in the UK and may sometimes be lower.

### INSURANCE

Travel insurance for the duration of your booking is your responsibility. Please read the details carefully. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance cover is adequate for your needs, covering both activities arranged and not arranged by us.

### DATA PROTECTION

Please be assured that we have measures in place to protect the personal booking information held by us. This information will be passed on to the principal and to the relevant suppliers of your travel arrangements. The information may also be provided to public authorities such as customs or immigration if required by them, or as required by law. Certain information may also be passed to security or credit checking companies. We will only pass your information on to persons responsible for your travel arrangements. This applies to any sensitive information that you give us such as details of any disabilities or dietary / religious requirements. If we cannot pass this information to the relevant suppliers, we may be unable to provide your booking. In making this booking you consent to this information being passed on to the relevant persons. Full details of our policy data protection are available upon request.