

Northern India & Nepal

From the Bay of Bengal to the Roof of the
World with the Maharajas' Express
October 10 – 26, 2019



Jodhpur – India's Blue City



Ranthambore National Park



Boudhanath Stupa, Nepal

Highlights

India: Mumbai, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaipur, Fatehpur Sikri, Agra, Delhi
Nepal: Kathmandu, Nagarkot, Mount Everest

India – A magnificent and vibrant country rich in history, tradition, and culture, with stunning landscapes and diverse people.

Nepal – From the rugged Himalayas to ancient golden temples, this is a country of startling beauty and deep tradition.

Maharajas' Express – India's most luxurious train, offering a spectacular journey through the country's breathtaking landscapes, culture, and heritage.

The Golden Triangle – One of India's most popular and diverse routes, connecting three of its treasured cities of the North.

Ranthambore National Park – A former royal hunting ground in the state of Rajasthan, this vast wildlife reserve is home to tigers, leopards, and marsh crocodiles.

Mount Everest Flight – Be amazed by the sight of mighty Mount Everest as you fly among the incredible Himalayan Mountains.

Why do we encourage you to reserve now?

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Your 17-Day Journey

Day 1 Depart for Mumbai, India

Enjoy your private car home pick up service. Guests departing from the Toronto airport are assisted with their check-in. Meet your Journey Manager and fellow guests, and board your flights to Mumbai, India. Our Journey Manager travels with you to take care of all the details throughout the journey, enabling you to concentrate on your experience.

Overnight flight

Day 2 Welcome to Mumbai, India

Once known as Bombay, Mumbai is in all ways a mega city driven by power, wealth, glamour, and fame which attracts people to give shape to their dreams and aspirations. But it is also a city with strong historical links, wonderful British architecture, museums, beaches, places of worship, and above all, a true galaxy of stars where Bollywood reigns supreme. On arrival, we are greeted at the airport and are transferred to our hotel to rest for the night.

Overnight Mumbai, The Oberoi, 2 nights

Day 3 Mumbai

Following a relaxed morning at leisure, embark on an afternoon of sightseeing as we discover the bustling city of Mumbai, home to more than 12 million people. Discover the city's popular sights including the Gateway of India and the Fish Aquarium, as well as its cultural and historical highlights such as Mani Bhawan, where Ghandi stayed during his visits to Mumbai/Bombay (1917-1934) and which is now a remarkable memorial. Visit the Prince of Wales Museum, and view its excellent examples of Indian miniature paintings, before driving past the Flora Fountain to Victoria Terminus train station, Mumbai's finest example of High Victorian Gothic architecture. Finally, pass through the colourful Crawford Market and the long, gracefully curving Marine Drive. (B,L,D)

Day 4 Maharajas' Express: The Heritage of India

Following breakfast, we check out from our hotel and make our way to the railway station. Join in the celebrations as you are traditionally welcomed, and board the renowned and luxurious Maharajas' Express – our home for the next six days. The train proceeds to Udaipur, with lunch and dinner provided on board. (B,L,D)

Overnight Maharajas' Express, 6 nights

Day 5 Udaipur

This morning, wake up in the picturesque region of Mewar, one of the most popular and royal states of the Rajputana, and admire the magnificent landscape of the Aravali Hills as we arrive into Udaipur – the City of Lakes. Begin your visit with a scenic boat ride on Lake Pichola, followed by a tour of the City Palace, the largest palace complex in Rajasthan, with its scalloped arches, fretted balconies, and cupolas. See Mor Chowk, with its lavish peacock mosaics, Moti Mahal, with its beautiful mirror work, Chini Mahal, covered in ornamental tiles, and the spectacular Zenana Mahal. Feel like a king as you experience the hospitality at the Satkar Hall of Fateh Prakash Palace, reminiscent of the ancient Mewar glory, and feast your taste buds over a spread of international and Indian cuisine. Enjoy some free time this afternoon to relax back on board the train, utilize the spa facilities of a five-star hotel, or take in a light and sound show at City Palace. Dinner will be served on board this evening. (B,L,D)

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Day 6 Jodhpur

The Maharajas' Express continues her journey into the stronghold of the Marwar region this morning. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast on board before arriving into the Blue City of Jodhpur. Here, you may wish to embark on an optional excursion, either enjoying a village safari at Bishnoi, taking a private shopping tour, or visiting Jaswant Thada and Umaid Bhawan Palace Museum. After lunch back on board the train, visit the magnificent Meherangarh Fort to admire the intricate latticed window, elaborately carved panels, and elegantly curved porches. Then, get to know the area better on a walking tour of the Old Clock Tower Market. As we reach the market by tuk-tuk, get a glimpse of the daily lifestyle of the local residents, passing some of the area's oldest houses and havelis. Enjoy an exclusive cocktail evening with a wide array of sumptuous Marwar culinary delights served in the Hanwant Mahal as you admire the cityscape, with the Umaid Bhawan Palace forming the backdrop. (B,L,D)

Day 7 Bikaner

As we enjoy breakfast on board, observe the desert scenery, the scattered flora, the villagers attired in their bright turbans, and the occasional herd of camels. The medieval city of Bikaner was once a major centre in the cross-desert caravan trade, and its forts, palaces, and temples are a splendid architectural reminder of its legacy. After a late-morning arrival to the desert citadel, relax on board or embark on an optional tour of the city, visiting Lalgarh Palace Museum, which displays some fascinating exhibits related to the royal heritage of Bikaner, or visiting the famous Deshnok Temple (Temple of Rats). Following lunch back on board the train, visit the Junagarh Fort, an unassailable fortress built in 1593 AD by Raja Rai Singh. While the fort is a formidable structure encircled by a moat, its real beauty lies inside. Be awed by the Diwan-i-Khas, Phool Mahal (Flower Palace), Hawa Mahal, and Anup Mahal, and admire the interesting collection of decorative costumes and ornate jewellery at the Fort Museum. Continue on a journey of a lifetime, and experience royal pageantry as a convoy of camel carts accompanied by musicians take us to watch the sunset over the sand dunes. Enjoy cocktails, savour traditional barbecue delicacies, and delight in traditional folk arts such as the Langaas and Kalbeliyas on a truly memorable evening. (B,L,D)

Day 8 Jaipur

Today, we arrive in the Pink City of Jaipur, a pristine jewel in the crown of the desert state of Rajasthan. Built by Raja Jai Singh in the 18th century, Jaipur is renowned for its magnificent palaces, forts, and temples. After breakfast, disembark for an exciting tour of the city, beginning with a visit to the Amber Fort, which is situated on a ridge just outside Jaipur and is surrounded by fortified battlements overlooking the Maota Lake. A short Jeep ride takes us up to the fort to enjoy a tour of the royal apartments, with striking views of the gorge. Step back into the Mughal era as we enter the Chamber of Mirrors (Sheesh Mahal) and the Hall of Victory, where we enjoy an exclusive royal experience; our arrival at the venue is accompanied by a band and the beating of "Nagadas" (Indian drums). We also have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to interact with elephants – paint them, feed them, or opt for a joy ride. Later, enjoy a cocktail lunch over sparkling wine before returning to the Maharajas' Express. For those who wish to explore further, choose to participate in an optional activity, such as a spa treatment at a five-star hotel, a private shopping tour, or a visit to City Palace Museum and Jantar Mantar (Observatory). Dinner is served back on board as the Maharajas' Express continues its onward journey to Ranthambore. (B,L,D)

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Day 9 Game Drive in Ranthambore National Park

After an early-morning arrival into Sawai Madhopur, get ready for a sunrise safari to Ranthambore National Park. Originally the private hunting ground of the Maharajas, Ranthambore was officially declared a National Park in 1973 and is famous for its open sightings of tigers, wild boars, sloth bears, hyenas, jackals, leopards, and other native wildlife. Spend an adventurous morning on a game drive in open vehicles searching for these elusive animals. Return to the train for breakfast as our journey continues toward the fabled deserted Mughal city of Fatehpur Sikri. Admire the changing landscape as you savour lunch before arriving at the quaint city in the afternoon. Tour Fatehpur Sikri's fascinating sites, including the imposing gateways, Halls of Private Audience and Public Audience, and beautifully sculpted palaces, reflecting a perfect blend of Hindu and Muslim architectural styles. Built by the great Mughal Emperor Akbar as his capital in the late 16th century, this deserted red sandstone city is now a famous UNESCO World Heritage Site. After exploring the magnificent city, return to the train to enjoy an "Indian Evening."

(B,L,D)

Day 10 The Taj Mahal

This morning, the train carries us to the magical city of Agra, the Jewel of India and home to one of the world's greatest architectural wonders – the Taj Mahal. With its spectacular monumental masterpieces and picturesque natural setting, Agra is a legendary city glorified by time. Be inspired by the striking UNESCO World Heritage Site of Taj Mahal, which was built entirely out of white marble by Shah Jahan as a mausoleum for his favourite queen, Mumtaz. Enjoy a champagne breakfast atop the Taj Khema, gazing across at the majestic Taj Mahal. Return to the train for a hearty lunch as we continue our journey to Delhi, and upon our arrival, bid farewell to the Maharajas' Express. Although our royal journey may be over, the memory of it will live on forever! We make our way to our hotel and settle in before dinner and an evening at leisure.

(B,L,D)

Overnight New Delhi, The Oberoi, 2 nights

Day 11 Delhi

India's capital, Delhi, is a contemporary and bustling metropolis that seamlessly combines the ancient and the modern. Its strategic location was one of the primary reasons why successive dynasties chose it as their seat of power. After breakfast, spend the morning seeing the sights of Old Delhi, including the magnificent Red Fort, built on the banks of River Yamuna, and Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India. Experience a cycle rickshaw ride through Chandini Chowk, once the Imperial Avenue of Mughal Royalty that, today, is the busiest commercial area of the city. Following lunch at a local restaurant, New Delhi is our focus for the afternoon, beginning with a visit to the 12th-century Qutab Minar, an incredible 234-foot hand-carved pillar. Visit the mausoleum of Emperor Humayun, drive past the India Gate, and see the president's residence before a relaxing dinner back at the hotel.

(B,L,D)

Day 12 Delhi to Kathmandu, Nepal

After checking out of our hotel this morning, we are transferred to the Delhi airport to board our flight to Kathmandu, Nepal, the largest city and capital of the country. The Kathmandu Valley comprises the three ancient royal cities of Patan, Bhaktapur, and Kathmandu, which each have their own palaces and ornate palace squares, designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Once thought to be the fabled and inaccessible Shangri-La, Kathmandu is now growing in popularity as a vacation spot. The cobbled lanes surrounding its palace square are a fascinating maze of temples, shrines, and marketplaces, around which life in the city revolves.

(B,L,D)

Overnight Kathmandu, Dwarika's Hotel, 3 nights

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Day 13 Kathmandu

Following breakfast, tour Kathmandu Durbar Square, located in the heart of Kathmandu's Old City. While the founding of the Durbar (Royal Palace) dates back to Licchavi times, construction was accomplished progressively over many centuries as considerable renovations were completed by Malla rulers and, later, the Ranas. Visit the 17th-century Durbar complex, Hanuman Dhoka, Parvati Temple, and Taleju Temple. A few steps away is the Temple of the Living Goddess, where we may catch a glimpse of the Kumari at one of the windows overlooking the inner courtyard. Atop a green hillock west of Kathmandu stands the great stupa of Swayambhunath, one of the holiest Buddhist sites in Nepal. After lunch at a local restaurant, spend time exploring Patan Durbar Square in the city of Patan, which is also called the "City of Fine Arts." It is the oldest city in the valley and is said to have been founded by Emperor Ashoka in the third century BC. Here, we visit the Krishna Mandir and Hiranya Varna Mahavihar. Be sure to take some time to contemplate the area's ancient heritage and cultural significance before returning to the hotel for dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 14 Kathmandu

This morning, we proceed to Pashupatinath Temple, one of the holiest shrines of all the Hindu temples in the world. The temple of Lord Shiva, Pashupatinath has a tiered golden roof and silver doors and is famous for its superb Nepalese architecture. Entrance to the temple precinct is forbidden to non-Hindus, who can instead view it from the eastern bank of Bagmati River, overlooking the cremation grounds. In the afternoon, we drive to Bhaktapur, a city known for its medieval art and architecture. Visit the ancient gateway and Durbar Square, the Royal Residential Quarter of Bhupatindra Malla that is home to Batsala Temple, Bhairavnath Temple, Duttatraya Temple, Pujari Math, and the Palace of 55 Windows. Walk to the famous Nyatapola Temple, the tallest temple in the country, which is guarded by a series of mythical animals and deities. Finally, visit Boudhanath, also known as "Little Tibet," which many Tibetans visit as a place of pilgrimage and trading. With a unique atmosphere resembling an old Barkhor marketplace in Lhasa, this bustling place is home to one of the largest Buddhist stupas in the world. We make our way to a nearby monastery at sunset to see monks, both young and old, sitting side by side and chanting an evening prayer. (B,L,D)

Day 15 Nagarkot

Embark on the experience of a lifetime this morning as you take to the skies on an incredible Mount Everest sightseeing flight over the Himalayas. Admire the unbelievable panoramic vistas of the world's highest mountain range, and marvel at the spectacular Mount Everest, standing majestically at 8,848 metres (29,029 feet). Following this amazing air excursion, we drive to Nagarkot Hill, famous for its stunning mountain views, and take in these scenic giants from a different perspective. From this single breathtaking vantage point, five of the world's tallest mountains can be viewed on a clear day, including Everest, Lhotse, Cho Oyu, Makalu, and Manaslu. The place is surrounded by a terraced hillside and the most beautiful scenery. Take a walk around the picturesque village before making our way to the hotel, which boasts incredible views of Everest – especially at sunset, and enjoy the rest of the afternoon at your leisure. (B,L,D)

Overnight Nagarkot, Club Himalaya, 1 night

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Day 16 Home

Enjoy a relaxing morning at leisure as this afternoon, we bid “fir milenge” to our new friends and make our way to the Kathmandu airport for our connecting flight to Delhi. On arrival in Delhi, we dine and prepare for our flights home. (B,L,D)

Day 17 Arrive Home

Today, we land in Canada. Guests arriving at the Toronto airport are greeted and assisted to their private car home.

All information contained in this itinerary is correct at time of printing and is subject to the terms and conditions as listed on our website at www.jerryvandyke.com or available from our office on request. We must reserve the ability to make improvements.

Early Reservation Bonus – Save up to 5%* Ends January 31, 2019

Since we first started our company over 38 years ago,
we have been rewarding our guests for reserving early.
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and pay 95% of the published fare at time of your reservation
by cheque or electronic bank transfer,
and we will deduct the remaining 5% off your journey fare.

ERB *flex*: Save 2%

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and pay 98% of the published fare at the time of your reservation
by Visa, Mastercard, or American Express,
and we will deduct the remaining 2% off your journey fare.

Should you not take advantage of the Early Reservation Bonus
and decide to pay by cheque or electronic bank transfer at time of final payment,
we will deduct **\$200 off** your journey fare.

Early Reservation Bonus ends January 31, 2019

**All journeys are subject to supplier fuel surcharges and new/increased government fees/taxes, should they arise. Please note: A deposit cheque and a post-dated final payment cheque are not considered payment in full. Final payment date is 120 days (or more, depending on journey) prior to departure. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer, unless noted otherwise.*

Your Journey Includes

Outstanding Accommodation

- The Oberoi, Mumbai, 2 nights
- Maharajas’ Express, 6 nights
- The Oberoi, New Delhi, 2 nights
- Dwarika’s Hotel, Kathmandu, 3 nights
- Club Himalaya, Nagarkot, 1 night

Air Travel

- International flights in economy with Lufthansa
- Regional flights with Air India
- Toronto to Mumbai
- Delhi to Kathmandu
- Kathmandu to Delhi
- Delhi to Toronto
- Guests join us from across Canada. Contact our office for additional air gateways.

Discover, Learn, Explore on Included Experiences

- Magnificent Mumbai City Tour
- Udaipur: City of Lakes with Scenic Boat Ride
- India’s Blue City – Jodhpur
- Desert Town of Bikaner with Sunset on the Sand Dunes
- Jaipur: The Pink City
- Ranthambore National Park Game Drive
- Fatehpur Sikri: UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Agra with the Taj Mahal
- The Old & the New Delhi
- Kathmandu – Durbar Squares & Stupas
- Captivating Kathmandu & “Little Tibet”
- Mount Everest Flightseeing
- Breathtaking Vistas of Nagarkot

Necessities – *Know your total journey cost before you leave home!*

- All taxes incl. HST, PST, VAT
- Private car home pick up & return service (where available), or a credit or hotel overnight
- All fees & service charges
- Gratuities on all included items: all rail staff, Journey Managers, local sightseeing guides, coach drivers, porters, etc.
- Branded overnight carry-on bag or backpack
- Porterage for one piece of baggage
- Services of a professional Journey Manager throughout the journey
- Services of local guides & coach drivers, for the local perspective
- Complete pre-trip information & assistance
- All meals included: 14 breakfasts, 14 lunches, 14 dinners
- All sightseeing & entrance fees as listed

Journey Fares from Toronto – Canadian dollars per guest

Twin/Double	Single
\$18,900	On Request

Fuel surcharges – *These journey fares include the current known fuel surcharges. Additional supplier fuel surcharges may apply at final payment date.*

Outstanding Accommodation

The Oberoi, Mumbai

Located on Mumbai's exclusive Marine Drive, The Oberoi is a five-star hotel featuring world-class hospitality. The beautifully furnished rooms offer impeccable style and modern convenience, along with wooden floors, large windows, and stunning views. The hotel also has three restaurants for casual and fine dining, two bars, a 24-hour spa, a fitness centre, and an outdoor pool with bar service.



The Oberoi, New Delhi

An iconic luxury hotel in New Delhi, The Oberoi is located in the heart of India's cosmopolitan capital city. The interiors are a contemporary interpretation of Sir Edwin Lutyens' New Delhi design, and radiate luxury from the polished wood floors to the rich marble bathrooms. Amenities include a full-service spa, an outdoor pool, a gym, a bar, and three chic restaurants featuring international fare.



Dwarika's Hotel, Kathmandu

Inspired by Kathmandu Valley's rich cultural heritage, Dwarika's Hotel is modelled after the palaces of Newar kings. Featuring exposed-beam ceilings and handmade furnishings, the elegant rooms with courtyard views are luxurious private hideaways. This charming five-star hotel includes three unique dining venues, an outdoor courtyard pool, a gym, and a spa.



Club Himalaya, Nagarkot

With stunning mountain views and breathtaking vistas, Club Himalaya offers a perfect blend of nature and modern amenities in the quaint village of Nagarkot. Each room features an interior that is traditional yet stylish and opens to a private balcony – perfect for watching the stunning sunrises or sunsets. The hotel also has a casual restaurant, a spa with an indoor pool, hot tub and sauna, as well as a massage centre.



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Redefining luxury rail travel since 2010, Maharajas' Express is the latest and most luxurious train in India, offering journeys through the country's breathtaking landscapes, culture, and heritage. Designed to recreate the elegance and pageantry of the personal carriages of former Maharajas of India, the interior of this luxury train is infused with nostalgia. Elegance of a bygone era and state of the art amenities combine seamlessly to offer five-star living in the quaint interiors.

Gourmet dining on board the magnificent Maharajas' Express is arranged in two fine-dining cars, Rang Mahal (Colour Palace) and Mayur Mahal (Peacock Palace), which each allow guests to enjoy delicious meals in a vibrant yet elegant environment. While the plates are fine Limoges porcelain edged with gold, the glasses Swarovski hand-cut crystal, and the silverware monogrammed with the letter M, the exquisite array of Indian and international cuisine presented by the onboard chefs is delectable and offered with a choice of complimentary wine pairings.

The comfortable and relaxed settings of the two lounges, the Rajah Club and the Safari Bar, offer guests a cozy place to rest and unwind while enjoying a range of wines and spirits along with the good company of others. Watch the incredible scenery pass by as the train travels through the Indian countryside, and enjoy the experience of being pampered like a Maharaja.

Coupled with elegantly designed interiors which include grand paintings, plush tapestry, wall-to-wall carpeting, Maharaja-style beds, linen, and subtle lighting, the cabins have been crafted to provide guests with the utmost comfort that can be experienced on a train. Each train coach has its own unique identity, based on Indian precious gems, to reflect the lavishness present in the overall experience on board the Maharajas' Express. Furthermore, each carriage is attended by personalized valets to provide attentive and friendly service throughout the rail journey.

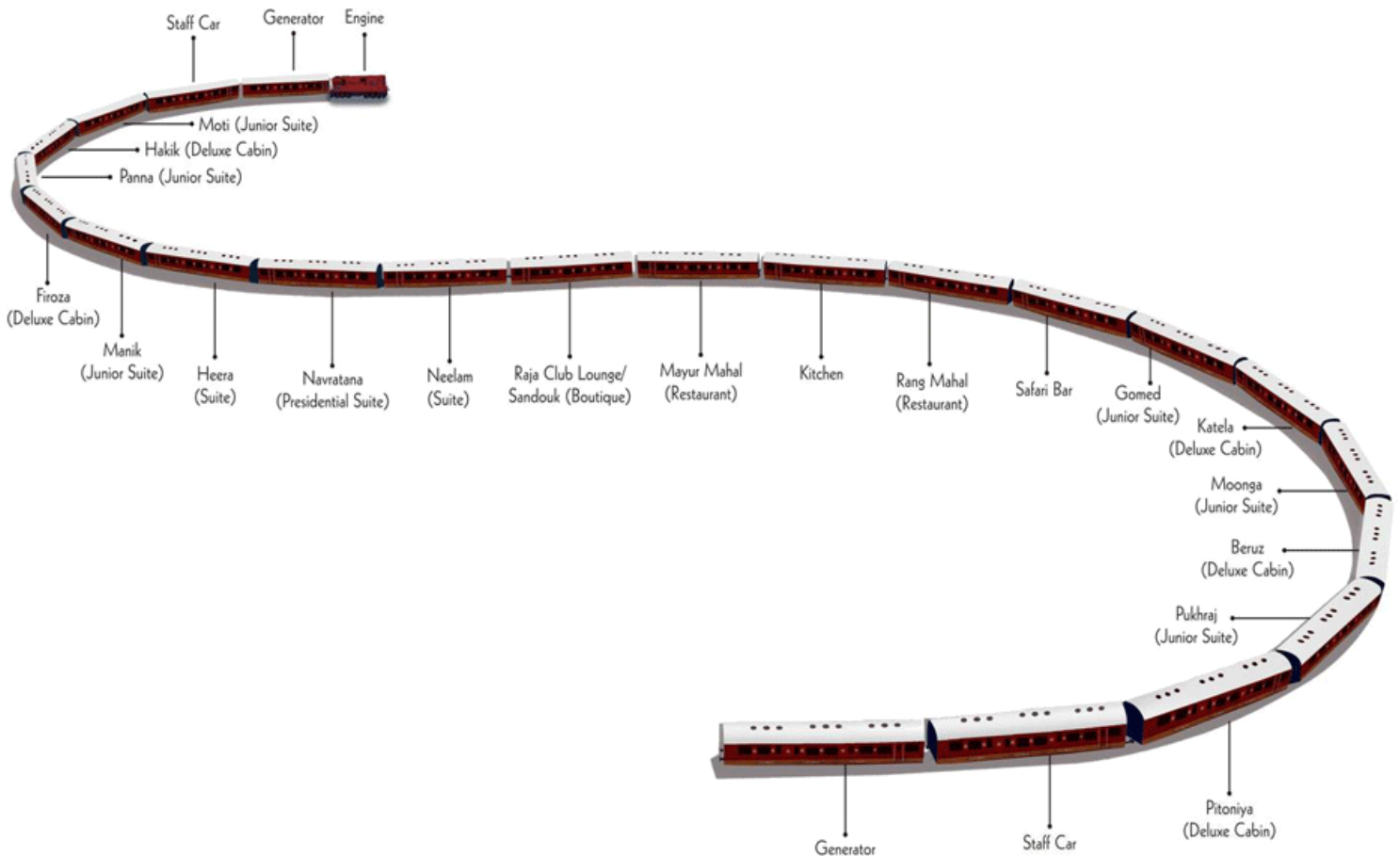
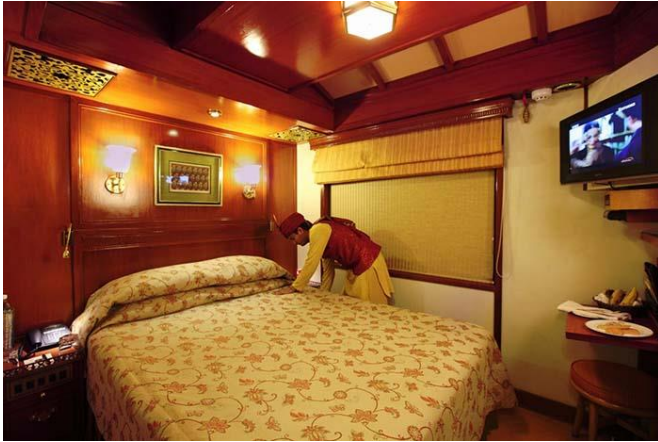


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Deluxe Cabins

112 square feet

The spacious Deluxe Cabins accommodate two passengers in either twin or double beds and are equipped with individual climate control, wardrobes, and en suite bathrooms with shower to offer guests a comfortable journey. To ensure a lavish and relaxed stay, cabins are also provided with luxury amenities such as bathrobes, slippers, and a range of luxury toiletries made of essential oils. The large windows allow unobstructed views of the magnificent Indian landscapes.



Personal Notes & Questions