

India: Jungle Trek, Project, Safari & Taj Mahal

This is your day-by-day itinerary that you will take on expedition and use as a guide. You'll need to work as a team of students to ensure you're where you should be, when you're supposed to be there. Don't rely on the adults, this is your expedition! Just remember, during an expedition things don't always go according to plan so it is quite common to have to make alternative arrangements as challenges present themselves, but this is all part of expedition life. Enjoy.



Day	From	To	Remarks
	Build up	Build up	<p>Build up The time before departure is spent together as a team making final preparations, checking and dividing up team kit, agreeing your expedition ground rules, running through all the paperwork and risk assessments, answering any final questions and of course saying goodbye to loved ones. Depending on the time of your flight, your build up may be held the day before you depart from the UK, and may also include an overnight stay at your school. Check with your School Leader what arrangements have been made.</p>
1	Departure Airport	Transit	<p>After all your planning and hard work, departure day is here! Depending on your departure airport you may have an overnight flight or transit.</p> <p>Arriving in India is not an experience you'll forget in a hurry! You will get your first tantalising glimpses as your plane comes in to land at the airport. You will be tired after your long flight, but you'll need to locate your pre-booked bus outside the terminal for the long 8 hour journey to Nainital. The bus will whisk you through several states from Delhi to the majestic mountainous region of Uttarakhand (formerly Uttaranchal).</p>
2	Transit	Transit to Nainital	<p>For your first night in India, depending on your flight arrival time you will either have pre-booked accommodation or you will be travelling overnight in your pre-booked coach.</p>
3	Transit to Nainital	Nainital/ Mountain Quail Camp	<p>Acclimatisation - Nainital. Lying at 1938m, Nainital is set in a valley containing a pear-shaped lake and is surrounded by beautiful mountains.</p> <p>Today you should walk from Nainital up to Mountain Quail Camp (just above Nainital) which is where you will be based for your project phase. This is a good acclimatisation walk and if you call ahead Sid, the In-Country Agent can arrange a jeep to transport your luggage to Mountain Quail Camp so you are trekking with your day sacks. The route starts from Snowview in Nainital, passing a Hindu temple enroute, and taking in the highest peak in the area (Cheena Peak, 2611m) before descending to Mountain Quail Camp.</p> <p>Once you've settled in you may like to explore one of the many short trails around the camp in to the dense oak and rhododendron forests which are excellent for bird spotting.</p>
4	Nainital/ Mountain Quail Camp	Project	<p>Project phase. The project gives you an opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture of India and learn about people's day-to-day lives. The details of your project will be confirmed nearer to departure, but it's likely to be working in a small primary school in a village in the hills of Uttarakhand.</p>
5	Project	Project	<p>The time you spend on your project can have a lasting impact on the children, so plan well and make the most of this opportunity. Think ahead about what games and activities you can play with them and if there's anything useful or fun you can teach them. If you'd like to take some gifts with you, skipping ropes always go down well, as does a cricket set so you can challenge the locals to a match!</p>
6	Project	Project	<p>Tip: Learning a few basic words and phrases in Hindi will help you meet local people and show that you're keen to learn about their culture and language.</p>
7	Project	Kunjukharak Trek	<p>Kunjukharak temple trek. Begin your trek through the dense jungle foothills of the Himalaya. Imagine the stories of Mowgli and Balu from Rudyard Kipling's <i>Jungle Book</i> as you start your adventure. The area is home to 350 species of birds, including Giant Hornbills as well as large mammals - though you'll have to be very quiet to see them! You'll also walk alongside the Kosi River at various points.</p>
8	Kunjukharak Trek	Kunjukharak Trek	<p>Each day, you'll carry in your day sack all the food, water and spare clothing you need, plus any group kit that the expedition leader has asked you to bring. Each night you'll camp close to local communities where you might even get the chance to challenge them to a game of cricket. You will be supported by a team of porters, cooks and a local guide who is extremely knowledgeable.</p>
9	Kunjukharak Trek	Camp Corbett	<p>On the last day of trek you will reach the former home of Jim Corbett - a famous tiger tracker and conservationist of the early 20th century. Visit the local museum and learn about the numerous stories of tigers and leopards he tracked and recorded. Tonight you can relax at Camp Corbett, a luxury safari camp run by your in-country agent Sid's family.</p> <p>Tip: Ask your guide and support team as many questions as you can to learn about the local environment and customs.</p>
10	Camp Corbett	Corbett Tiger Reserve	<p>Safari phase.* Continue to Ramnagar - the park entrance of Corbett National Tiger Reserve. Time for some well deserved rest and relaxation after the exertions of your trek! This famous reserve was established in 1936 as India's first National Park by the legendary tiger hunter Jim Corbett. Jeep and elephant tours can be arranged from the visitors centre at Ramnagar.</p> <p>Few visitors are disappointed as the park has an abundance of wildlife in grasslands, forests and river habitats. Commonly seen wildlife includes wild elephants, sloth bears, langur monkeys, deers and otters, although you may be lucky enough to spot a tiger, leopard, wild boar, jackals and crocodiles.</p> <p>Enjoy the sunset over the Park as you stay overnight in the Park in dormitory accommodation. Tip: don't forget to bring binoculars to share among the team!</p>

11	Corbett Tiger Reserve	Transit to Agra	<p>Transit to Agra.* Today you will say goodbye to the mountains and jungles of Uttarakhand and take the long journey south to the chaotic city of Agra (approx 10-12 hours) - home to the majestic Taj Mahal!</p> <p>The Taj was built by Shah Jahan as a memorial to his wife Mumtaz Mahal. The beautiful building receives millions of visitors a year and is popular with foreign tourists and Indian tourists alike.</p>
	Transit to Agra	Agra	<p>Tip: be prepared to queue as it gets busy! Try to visit at sunrise or sunset for the best views and admire the white-domed marble mausoleum as it glows pink and orange! Just don't forget that the Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays. Entrance to the Taj Mahal will be included in your budget but any additional activities will be at your own expense.</p>
13	Agra	Transit to Delhi Airport	<p>If you have time, consider a trip to the imposing Agra Fort or one of the many local markets for some last minute souvenirs such as bracelets and textiles. Further out of town, there is the mystical ghost city of Fatephur Sikir. Tip: Watch out for some very tourist-savvy pickpockets!</p> <p>Time for those last minute jobs before you pack up your kit for the final time and head towards Delhi Airport for the flight back home (approx 4-6 hours). Depending on your flight time you may decide to book accommodation near the airport for tonight (see in-contact sheet). Alternatively for an early morning departure you may decide to have dinner in Agra and travel direct to the airport to arrive in time for check-in tomorrow morning. Remember that teams cannot travel into Delhi City following travel advice from DFAT and the FCO.</p> <p>Tip: Make sure you pre-book the transport well in advance and re-confirm it the day before.</p>
	Transit to Delhi Airport	UK	<p>You'll take a final taxi ride to the airport and say a fond farewell to India. Once you're airborne you'll finally have some time to spend reflecting on your amazing adventure and think about everything you've achieved.</p> <p>Tip: just make sure you give yourself plenty of time to get to the airport - the security checks in Delhi airport are notoriously lengthy.</p> <p>Getting off the plane, you'll be bursting with stories and photos to keep family and friends entertained for hours! Saying goodbye to your team will be harder than you'd imagine as you'll have become lifelong friends but the excitement of a shower, clean sheets, a comfy bed and catching up on all the news at home will make it easier. Don't forget to keep the experience alive and put your images, videos and best stories up on Youtube, Flickr and Facebook - remember to tag them all as World Challenge so you can compare notes with other returning Challengers.</p>

* Your safari and entrance to the Taj Mahal is included, but don't forget any additional rest and relaxation activities are to be undertaken in accordance with World Challenge risk assessments and will be at the teams own expense, unless otherwise specified. Please note that although swimming may not be specified on the itinerary, the team may have the opportunity to paddle or swim during the course of the expedition.

** Please note that the order of phases/activities in the itinerary may change.