

WILD FRONTIERS



East India and Bhutan: Spring Festival Tour

This tour begins in Kolkata - the cultural heart of India - and continues up into the rolling foothills of the Great Himalaya to visit the hill station of Darjeeling. From here we travel into the fabled country of Bhutan where we will spend 8 full days, visiting amazing monasteries, the little visited centre of the country, mountains and markets and, to cap it all, you'll be there for the extraordinarily colourful Paro Festival. Squashed into a high pocket of land between Sikkim, Assam, Tibet and Arunachal Pradesh in the northeast of India, Bhutan is a wonderful country, home to a fascinating and unique culture, stupendous scenery and a truly charming people. This trip explores a land that has been cut off from the rest of the world - both through geographical positioning and its own political desires - so much so that in many places things have barely changed at all over the last 500 years. Take time to explore the vast, 17th century dzongs and monasteries perched spectacularly atop high cliffs or beside thundering rivers; take in the jaw-dropping scenery peppered with clusters of ethereal prayer flags; experience colourful displays of dance and story-telling and allow yourself to be transported back over the centuries.

“Words cannot begin to describe just how magical my two weeks with Wild Frontiers were. It really was the best holiday I have ever been on!” *Wonkie Hills*

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Paro Festival
- The dzongs and monasteries of Bhutan
- The little visited centre of Bhutan
- The hill station of Darjeeling
- Bhutan's extraordinary culture and people

Duration: 16 Days

Average group size: 5 - 12

Start: Fri 30 Mar 12

Finish: Sat 14 Apr 12



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Why Wild Frontiers?

As a young, innovative company, Wild Frontiers is delighted to have been voted one of the 'Top 10 Tour Operators' by the readers of both Wanderlust and National Geographic Adventure. We are frequently asked what makes us different from other tour operators, and feel that the factors below answer this important question.

The Traveller's Ethos: WF is a company that has been set up by travellers for travellers, and our ethos is to help adventurous souls get to incredible and inaccessible places in safety and as much comfort as local conditions allow. We are firm believers that travelling is all about the experience and it's the details that make the trip - we specialise in drawing on our own extensive local knowledge and array of contacts to give our clients the very best experience possible.

Personal Service: Our London office is manned by experienced expedition leaders and every trip we run stems from their extensive knowledge - in short, we run the kind of trips that as passionate travellers, we like to do ourselves! When you ring our office, you can be guaranteed to chat to someone that knows the trips and the terrain, and is able to offer sound and practical advice.

Authentic Experiences: Our unique, original itineraries allow our clients to take journeys that venture beneath the surface of the region. Unlike the plethora of 'world specialists' out there who purport to know a hundred destinations, we concentrate on the locations we know and love. We don't run the same tour over and over, thus running the risk of creating a 'tourist circuit' and spoiling untouched regions. Instead, we rarely run any tour more than a couple of times a year and they are on routes we have discovered for ourselves, meaning we are able to give a truly authentic, off-the-beaten-track experience.

Be the First: Our style of travel is all about exploration, and nothing excites us more than opening up new routes to genuine travellers. We keep abreast of new destinations and are often the first to return to places that have vanished from the tourist map. We were the first back into Pakistan after 9/11, the first to return to Kashmir after a decade of tourist isolation, and the first to run a commercial travel trip to Afghanistan for almost 30 years. Since then we have helped bring Colombia, Yemen and Georgia back into the tourist fold, specialising in groundbreaking reconnaissance trips and imaginative expeditions.

Small Group Size: We believe it is imperative to keep the group sizes small. Most trips are limited to a maximum of approximately 12 travellers, thus giving you more access to fragile cultures, better opportunities to interact with local people, and the knowledge you are making less of an impact while there.

Cost of Tours: We believe in an honest, upfront pricing system so you know exactly what the tour will cost before you book. We avoid local payments, 'optional extras' or forcing our clients to split every meal bill. Our tours are provided on a predominantly full board basis, with mineral water, government permits, entrance fees and transport all included.

Added Value: We aim to give our clients the very best (not the least expensive) experience through whatever facilities are available to us. We always try to provide accommodation that is interesting, characterful and convenient, and transport - another important part of any tour - that is as varied and comfortable as possible.

Our clients: Your companions can make or break a trip, and it's lucky therefore that our clients are our greatest asset. Travelling to remote regions is not for everyone, and as such we tend to attract open-minded travellers looking for genuine experiences, and a desire to reach those hard to get to places.

Responsible Travel: Awarded 5 star status by AITO (Association of Independent Tour operators), responsible tourism has always been an integral part of our company ethos and our adventures are designed with the local people, culture and eco-system in mind. For further details please refer to the RT section on this dossier.



Day 1: Tour starts in Kolkata (India): The tour starts late afternoon in Kolkata.
Hotel (D)

Day 2: Kolkata: Today we visit the heart of the city to see the Writers Building, the Flower Market, the 140 year old (washing) dhobi ghats, the Howrah Bridge, and the North Kolkata Mansions, among other fascinating aspects of this extraordinary place. We'll have the afternoon at leisure before heading to Kolkata's Sealdah station to catch the overnight air-conditioned sleeper to New Jalpaiguri.

Night train (B, L, D)

Day 3: New Jalpaiguri - Darjeeling: We will arrive in the morning and, provided that it is operating transfer to the famous Toy Train. It is a beautiful journey up through the foothills of the eastern Himalaya on a nostalgic and graceful form of transport. However, to be brutally honest, 4 to 5 hours at a top speed of 20mph is normally enough. We therefore have the jeeps running alongside so we can jump ship when we're ready and get to Darjeeling a little faster! Our hotel on arrival is a colonial style abode, situated conveniently close to the Mall.

Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 4: Darjeeling: We will wake early for a morning drive to Tiger Hill to see the spectacular sunrise view of Kanchenjunga, India's third highest mountain. After breakfast we are then free to wander around town, with possible trips to the Mountaineering

Institute, the Zoological Gardens and the Tibetan Self-Help Centre. After lunch in town we transfer to jeeps and drive to a tea estate where we can watch every stage of the tea production from growing and picking to grading and packing.
Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 5: Darjeeling - Phuntsoling (Bhutan): Today will be a wonderfully scenic drive down through the lush verdant forests and plantations to the plains of West Bengal. We'll follow the foot of the mountain range until we reach the border town of Phuntsoling at the head of a duer - the name given to the fertile valleys which reach back up along the rivers. Here we'll stop for the night.
Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 6: Phuntsoling - Paro: After breakfast we head to Paro - a spectacular drive from the Gangetic plain through the steep gorges of the Wang Chuu River into the pine clad upper interior of Bhutan. Look out for the bursting colour of Azaleas and the huge Magnolia trees. On arrival we may have time for a brief wander round town before dinner and perhaps visit the wonderful museum in the ancient watch tower above the dzong.
Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 7: Paro: This morning we can walk or ride (take ponies) up to the Taktsang Goemba, known as the Tiger's Nest monastery, stopping en route at the viewpoint to which we will return for lunch. This is without a doubt the most

spectacular monastery in Bhutan, built on a rock ledge a thousand metres above the valley floor. The first and main temple was built where Guru Rinpoche is said to have flown on the back of a tiger to meditate in this cave on a rocky ledge. The walk to the viewing point takes about 1½ hrs with another 3½ hrs to get to the monastery and back. In the afternoon we will relax and enjoy the festival.

Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 8: Paro: Early this morning we visit the last day of the festival at the Paro dzong to see the unfurling of the famous Thangka and then later the breathtaking finale of the festival with Bhutanese religious dancing and storytelling. It is a wonderfully colourful event where the famous masked dancers tell the teachings of Guru Rinpoche - the precious jewel - through plays, music and dance. The whole atmosphere is that of an ancient carnival and those who wish to can dress up in the traditional Bhutanese garb: a kira for the ladies and gho for the men! Later in the afternoon we will visit a local farming family to see first hand how they still conduct their age-old daily traditions and to sample some local refreshments.

Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 9: Paro - Thimpu: This morning we will make an early getaway, driving to Thimpu, to arrive at the capital city by mid morning. We will visit the Painting school and a paper factory, the Takin Park to see Bhutan's national animal, and in the early evening we will visit the dzong.

Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 10: Thimpu - Wangdue: After breakfast we will go to see the Dechen Phodrun Monastery where Wild Frontiers has supported the young monks' education for some years. Following lunch we will drive up to the Dochu la Pass for lunch, and continue to Wangdue, where we will check into our hotel.

Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 11: Wangdue - Punakha - Wangdue: In the morning we'll drive 9kms to Punakha where we'll visit the dzong, former capital of Bhutan, spectacularly positioned at the confluence of two thundering rivers and noted for its huge prayer hall with three giant Buddhas and wonderful painted thankas. On our way

back to Wangdue we will stop for lunch and then visit Chimi Lhakhang, the temple built to honour one of Bhutan's most intriguing characters, Lama Drukpa Kunley, known as the Divine Madman. Then it will be back to Wangdue for dinner.

Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 12: Wangdue - Trongsa: After breakfast we'll visit the shingle roofed Dzong in the old cliff top town of Wangdue. We will then drive on to Trongsa. We should arrive in Trongsa in time for lunch and time for an afternoon visit to the dzong before checking in to our hotel.

Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 13: Trongsa - Gelephu: Today we'll make the breathtaking journey back down through the foothills of the Himalaya to the small border town of Gelephu - seat of the Sarpang district. We'll pass through Shemgang before crossing the Tangsa Chu and climbing up over the southern shoulder of the Black Mountains to drop finally to the plains.

Basic Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 14: Gelephu - Guwahati (India): After breakfast we'll cross the border into Assam. The journey to Guwahati will take us east along the Brahmaputra, through farmland and forest until we cross the river to Guwahati in the late afternoon. If time permits we might get to wander in the busy bazaar in the evening.

Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 15: Guwahati - Delhi: Transfer to Guwahati airport for the flight to Delhi. Check into our hotel again. The afternoon is free to explore some of this fascinating city or to simply relax before our journey home.

Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 16: Delhi: The tour ends this morning with breakfast at the hotel.

(B)

Wild Extensions:

Arrive early to adjust to a new time zone or just to get a feel for the country before your tour starts. Explore the country after your tour on a bespoke Wild Extension or just allow a few days to

relax afterwards. Maybe choose all of the above and get cheaper flights mid-week?

- A) Taj Extension. Not yet seen the marble wonder of the world that is the Taj Mahal, take an extra couple of days after the tour to visit this amazing site coupled with the deserted waterless city that is Fatehpur Sikri.
- B) Ever been to the Sikh pilgrimage site of the Golden Temple in Amritsar? Experience the tranquillity of this grand gold plated temple and travel across then to Chandigarh - the green city.
- C) Want to combine anything above or have you seen something else in India you want to explore...

Contact the office for extension specifics.

TOUR DETAILS

Tour Code: BHU/F

Tour price: All our tours are priced on a LAND ONLY basis, giving you maximum flexibility when deciding how to get to and from your tour.

Single Supplements: These are NOT compulsory for any Wild Frontiers tour. Where single supplements are available please note that a single room cannot always be guaranteed for every night of the tour as depending on the destination, rooms may be limited.

We are happy to offer an optional single supplement for all nights of this tour. However, please note that single rooms in BHUTAN cannot be guaranteed due to potentially limited availability throughout festival periods. Accordingly, if you have opted for the single room supplement, we will refund you £30 for any night in Bhutan where we are unable to provide you with a single room.

Flights: If you would like us to send you a quote for the suggested tour flight (see GETTING THERE) or on any alternative flight that may suit you better, please let us know.

In all cases, for the latest prices, please refer to our website or contact the office.

Please remember that all Wild Frontiers tour prices mean NO hidden extras, NO local payments or kitty and NO compulsory single supplements.

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- Full services of a Wild Frontiers Tour Leader with local guides and drivers.
- Meal plan as detailed in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner) with mineral water as required.
- All transport as outlined in the itinerary.
- All accommodation
- All entrance fees, as per itinerary

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

- Visas (if applicable)
- Local airport taxes
- Tips
- Beverages & any costs of a personal nature.
- International Flights
- Airport transfers (unless booking suggested flights through WF office)

GETTING THERE

For this trip our suggested flights (subject to change) are:

29MAR 9W 121LHR-DEL 20:50/10:40 +1
30MAR SG 212 DEL-CCU 14:35/16:45
14APR 9W 0122 DEL-LHR 13:45/18:30

Key:

LHR - London Heathrow

DEL - Delhi

CCU- Kolkata

9W - Jet Airways

SG - Spice Jet

NB If you wish to arrange your own flights you are completely free to do so and in this case we can arrange any transfers or supplementary accommodation that you may require.

Please note that if you are making your own flight arrangements, we recommend that you only purchase flights that are totally flexible and refundable as due to the nature of adventure travel, itineraries can change at any time.

For more information, please refer to our booking conditions.

PRACTICALITIES

Accommodation will be in hotels and guesthouses.

Any accommodation mentioned in the itinerary is subject to availability and if not available substitutes will be of a similar quality.

Transport on this tour includes minibuses, trains, cars and a domestic flight.

Trip Grading:

Adventure Rating ❖❖❖❖❖

Comfort Grade ❖❖❖❖❖

Fitness Level ❖❖❖❖❖

Cultural Interest ❖❖❖❖❖

Please note that this grading is an indication only and should you have any concerns please contact the office.

Fitness...

Anyone in a reasonable state of health, with an open mind and a sense of adventure should be perfectly able to cope with our tours to Bhutan. That said there are a number of optional walks on our fixed-date itineraries that may leave the unfit panting a little!

It may sound obvious but...

Wild Frontiers tours are not always for everyone and it is important to us that the tour you choose is the most suitable. Please therefore take time to read the dossier carefully. All our tours are graded to give an overall picture of the trip but these are only guidelines and you should check the daily itinerary. Should you have any concerns about your ability to partake in any aspect of the tour then please contact the office.

Insurance: Insurance that provides cover for emergency repatriation in case of a medical emergency is compulsory for all

tours. You should be aware that many standard insurance policies may not cover you adequately for all aspects of a Wild Frontiers trip and so we strongly recommend that you purchase a suitably designed insurance policy. One such policy is the "Wild Frontiers" policy underwritten by Travel & General Insurance Company plc, which is available to UK and Republic of Ireland residents through our website or via the insurance company direct on 0845 408 0583. Under this policy there are two different levels of cover available and for this trip the minimum requirement would be the Standard policy.

Cover explained:

Standard policy: a comprehensive travel insurance policy that provides cover for all Wild Frontiers activities, including trekking up to 6,000m. This policy does not provide cover for travel to areas where the FCO is advising against all or all but essential travel.

Elite policy: provides the same comprehensive level of cover as the standard policy. In addition the Elite policy also provides cover for travel to areas where the FCO is advising against all or all but essential travel. The policy will not provide cover for any claims arising from or relating to the reasons why the FCO is advising against travel.

If purchasing the Elite policy you also have the option to **extend the cover** provided by the policy to include cover for claims arising from a terrorist act in an area where the FCO is advising against travel. You can add this cover to your policy when purchasing online or over the telephone.

These policies are only available to those travelling on a Wild Frontiers holiday.

For more information and to purchase your policy online please visit the Insurance section of our website.

The cover is underwritten by the International Insurance Company of Hannover Limited (IICH), who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA). Wild Frontiers Limited is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Travel & General Insurance Company plc, details of which

can be found at the FSA's website www.fsa.gov.uk.

If you do decide to purchase alternative insurance, then you must ensure that it covers you for every aspect of this trip.

Visas: Visas are necessary for many of the destinations we travel to and while we aim to provide you with the most up-to-date information, requirements frequently change and as such we advise that you check with the relevant embassies or contact our recommended visa agency, Travcour (020 7223 5295) www.travcour.com for the latest advice. For this tour, UK passport holders currently require visas for India and Bhutan. (Please note that visa costs can add up).

Non-UK passport holders should contact the relevant embassies for individual requirements.

Further details will be sent out to you on booking, however ensuring that correct and valid visas are obtained remains the sole responsibility of the client.

Responsible Travel: Responsible travel and sustainable tourism are fundamental ideas that Wild Frontiers has been committed to since our birth. It is our strong belief that these words should not be simply 'tagged on' to dossiers and websites but should be at the very core of each trip, and our adventures are therefore designed with the local people, culture and eco-system in mind. We believe that a successful trip not only delivers a unique and unsurpassable journey for our clients, but that it also benefits the peoples whose lands we are privileged to visit.

The Wild Frontiers Foundation: In order to facilitate an enduring support structure for the communities we visit, Wild Frontiers has set up a charitable foundation through which we can channel funds to both existing NGOs and our own development projects. In addition to organising ethically sensitive tours, having our own charitable foundation allows us to raise money - through the cost of our tours, charity trips and fund raising events - which can then be used to fund various projects in education, sanitation, reforestations and a number

of other important issues facing developing communities. Wherever possible we are happy for our clients to visit these projects to see for themselves where and how this money is being spent. For a full list of partner NGOs please visit our website. Should you wish to donate to the foundation please contact the office for details.

The Environment: Trying to do our bit for the environment, in 2005 we were among the first UK-based travel companies to automatically offset every client's international flight (if booked with us) with a payment to Carbon Clear to help promote sustainable energy.

Climate: As far as the climate is concerned Bhutan has everything from tropical jungle with heat and humidity pushing into over-drive and High Mountain passes where it regularly snows. On all of our trips however the weather is never likely to be very severe though a good set of waterproofs is advisable. And on this trip - in March - you should still have clear weather and great views of the Himalayas.

Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO): The FCO travel advice highlights potential hazards people might experience when travelling abroad. Given the nature of destinations offered by Wild Frontiers it is inevitable that from time to time some itineraries contravene this advice. Whilst WF takes the safety and security of its clients extremely seriously, we will not necessarily cancel a trip because of the FCO advice. It is recommended therefore that clients check this advice before booking and contact us if they have any queries or concerns. Please see our website for further information.

Further information:

When you make a confirmed booking with Wild Frontiers we will send you our confirmation pack with complete pre-departure information giving you details on visas, health and vaccinations, packing lists, suggested reading on the region, insurance, photography and other useful tips to make your trip more enjoyable.

EAST INDIA & BHUTAN - THE FACTS



Kolkata: Though the first time traveller to India might find the chaotic streets and bustling markets of Kolkata somewhat daunting, wander around a while and you will soon realise that this great city's stereotypical image of a decaying, squalor-ridden mass of humanity is largely undeserved. Kolkata, the City of Joy, is in fact a thriving, colourful and extremely artistic place; described by many as India's cultural heart.

Though the city is home to some of the most impressive architecture of the British Raj, it also carries a distinctly Bengali soul. Bengal is home to India's poets and writers, artists and reformers and it is from here that many of the country's political changes are born. There are also plenty of wonderful places to see and things to do. Soak up the Bengali culture at the various museums, galleries, coffee houses and fine restaurants. Explore the historical collections of the Victoria Memorial, one of India's most telling remnants of the British Raj. Stroll through the Maidan a huge park - in the late afternoon and watch the heart of the city go about its business. Relax at the Botanical Gardens, an oasis of calm in this busy metropolis. Kolkata is a fascinating and enjoyable place to visit.



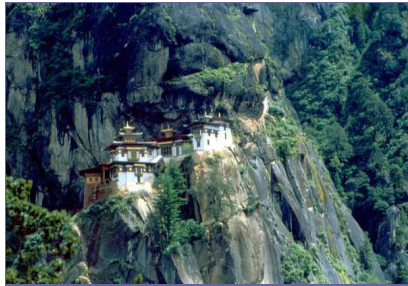
Darjeeling: Straddling a lush, high ridge in the foothills of the western Himalayas, with breathtaking views of Kanchenjunga, the world's third highest mountain, Darjeeling, like Shimla, is a schizophrenic town, on the one hand buzzing with modern Indian life while on the other echoing that of its colonial past. Settled by English tea planters in the mid 19th century, the rolling, green plantations, which still produce what many argue to be the finest tea in the world, define the surrounding hills. A trip to one of the estates to watch the process of production - from the pickers to the finished product - is a must for anyone visiting the area. But that is not all Darjeeling has to offer. There is also the famous Mall, with wonderful views off either side, the Tibetan Refugee Self-Help Centre, the Snow Leopard Breeding Centre, a rather moth-eaten zoo and as the adopted home of Sherpa Tenzing, India's most prestigious Mountain Institute.



Bhutan, the Land of the Thunder Dragon: *With our passage through the bridge, behold a curious transformation. For just as Alice, when she walked through the looking-glass, found herself in a new and whimsical world, so we, when we crossed the Pa-chhu, found ourselves as though caught up on some magic time machine fitted fantastically with reverse, flung back across the centuries into the feudalism of a medieval age.*

So wrote the Earl of Ronaldshay upon entering Bhutan in 1923, and though the past 80 years has inevitably brought change to this independent Himalayan kingdom, arriving in the Land of the Thunder Dragon still gives you an overwhelming feeling of travelling back in time...and into another world. Squashed into a high pocket of land between Nepal, Tibet and Northeast India, Bhutan is an extraordinary country, home to a

fascinating and unique culture, stupendous scenery and a truly charming people. And in addition, it is one of the few accessible places on earth left largely unaffected by tourism. Because of the government's policy of limiting travellers - originally by a quota system, now by charging a set rate per day - few venture this way. You will hear no children here screaming the modern tourist mantra, 'One pen, one pen!' Wherever you go you will simply be greeted with warm smiles and friendly hellos.



Bhutan and the 21st Century: One of the most interesting aspects of a trip to Bhutan is witnessing an ancient culture moving, unsteadily but inexorably, into the modern world.

In an attempt to preserve both the environment and the nation's ancient ways, the King imposed many laws and regulations dictating what both the Bhutanese and foreign visitors could do. All public and private businesses are required to pass stringent eco tests; all timber export is prohibited, as is the use of plastic bags. The traditional men's garment, the *gho* (for women the *kira*) must be worn by all on official and professional business and smoking is banned.

The influx of tourists was regulated on a quota system, and those who did come paid a high price for the privilege. In the last few years things have changed dramatically with the introduction of television and the internet, vastly improved roads, schools and hospitals. A new constitution was adopted in 2005 and His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuk decreed that the country would undergo drastic changes to its political system. By the end of 2006 he stepped down in favour of his eldest son, Jigme Khesar Namgyal and Bhutan now has democratically elected Upper and Lower

Houses with the king as a constitutional monarch.



Until recently, television was banned, as was the Internet and the wearing in public of T-shirts and jeans - still today at festival time local men must wear the traditional *gho* and women the *kira*. But whilst many of these initiatives were undoubtedly beneficial in helping to maintain Bhutan as the unspoilt, ethnic-wonderland it is today, some were not. Besides the semi-autocratic laws the locals had to endure, tourists had their movement controlled by the state-run tour operator and were not allowed into the monasteries - which is, without doubt, one of the main attractions for visiting the Land of the Thunder Dragon.



In the last few years things have changed. The King, accepting the need for a more inclusive government, has handed over power to an elected council. They in turn, spurred on by the belief that it is both futile and counter-productive to hold out against such rapacious modern phenomena as satellite TV and the Internet, as well as an understanding that the tourist dollar can help the economy, have started the process of modernisation.

Today tourists visiting Bhutan pay a mandatory fee which covers all accommodation, transport, food and guides and are free to go anywhere.

Satellite dishes can be seen over the rooftops of Thimpu, the capital, Internet cafés are springing up and English is widely spoken. Inevitably 'progress' has brought about new social problems with particularly the young drifting from the land into the towns, where they don jeans and T-shirts, play football rather than the traditional sport of archery and hang out in cafes rather than monasteries. This urbanisation of the population, combined with a rising birth rate, is straining the country's fragile urban infrastructure with increasing overcrowding and unemployment.

This pressure on urban communities is being added to by farmers, whose crops are being ravaged by wild animals, particularly bear, living in the forest-clad hillsides. Abandoned by their young who do not wish to live a life of hardship working in the fields, their elderly parents can no longer manage to till the fields as well as protecting their crops, resulting in hundreds of farmers leaving the countryside and moving into the towns for what they perceive as an easier way of life. However Bhutan's charm remains intact, as do the rules governing all aspects of building and the wearing of the national dress for all public and formal occasions.



Bhutan at Festival Time: Our tours to Bhutan are set up to coincide with some of the country's hugely colourful, and culturally significant, religious festivals. Representing the most spiritually important time of the year, when costumed and masked Bhutanese tell the legends of their Buddhist ancestors through theatrical events of dance, music and storytelling, each of these festivals is hugely entertaining and uplifting. And set as they are in the majestic courtyards of the spectacular dzongs, surrounded by hundreds of locals, a visit to Bhutan at

this time will carry you back in time and into another, disappearing, world.

Assam: Home of the Ahom Dynasty at (Sibsagar) that arrived from Thailand in the mid 13th century and ruled to varying degrees until the 18th century. The Burmese moved in and took over and ruled with merciless barbarity until the British threw them out from 1824-25. It soon became the heartland of tea production in India - perhaps in the world and verdant acres of tea gardens lie either side of the mighty Brahmaputra for hundreds of miles, beautifully tended around tidy colonial Bungalows.

Delhi: Capital of modern India, of the British Raj and the Moghul empire, Delhi - the City of Djinns - is a fascinating place to explore, bursting with centuries of colourful history, of old imperial splendour and modern manic mayhem. From the chaotic, narrow alleyways of the old town to the relative tranquillity of the new, at almost every corner there is something - a fort, a mosque, an imperial palace - to excite and amaze the visitor. To wander unhindered down Rajpath - the Kingsway - from India Gate to Rashtrapati Bhawan, stopping for a while in the shade of the sheltering neem trees to feast your eyes on Lutyens' extraordinary work of architecture will have even the most seasoned traveller gasping in awe. But just as impressive, and arguably a lot more fun, is to take a walk through the old town; down the bustling Chandi Chowk and off into the narrow, sunless alleyways that make up Shahjehanabad. Here, among the jewellery, fabric and wedding bazaars you will find a world barely changed from that of the Moghul times. With plenty more sight-seeing trips available to the Qutab Minar, Lodhi Gardens, the Lotus Temple or the awesome Humayan's Tomb - inspiration for the Taj Mahal; shopping expeditions on Janpath, Santoshti or Khan Markets; or a quiet cup of tea at the Imperial... Delhi can have you busy for days.

How to book:

In order to confirm your booking we need to have a completed signed booking form for each client together with a £400 deposit per person. You can either return your booking form to us by post or by booking online at www.wildfrontiers.co.uk

You can contact the office by email to info@wildfrontiers.co.uk or we are very happy to take your call on **020 7736 3968**.

Wild Frontiers is a fully licensed and bonded tour operator and our ATOL number is 5975. You can book your holiday with Wild Frontiers in complete confidence that all monies you pay to us for your tour are fully protected.

We are also bonded with the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO). AITO members comply with the highest standards of consumer protection. Every AITO holiday is backed not only by AITO's Quality Charter but also by full financial protection.

We do recommend that you take out adequate travel insurance at the time of booking in the event that you are no longer able to travel as all deposits are non-refundable - full booking conditions can be found on the booking form and online at our website.