

WILD FRONTIERS



Himalayan Action Adventure (Recce Tour) India

The spectacular landscapes of the Indian Himalayas provide the ideal setting for this exhilarating action adventure. Set against the backdrop of some of the most breath-taking scenery in northern India we will journey deep into Uttarakhand, to trek through the stunning Chamba River Valley, before moving on to take on the raging torrents of the Ganges. Along the way there will be time to explore Delhi and pay a visit to a village school, mountain bike through the wildlife haven of Rajaji NP and experience the spectacle of an *arti* ceremony on the banks of India's holiest river. A non-stop journey of visual and cultural highlights, this is an Indian odyssey with a difference.

"I am delighted to find an adventure travel company that ticks all the boxes: adventure, flexibility and small company independence. A refreshing change from the bigger brands." *Diana Henderson*

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Explore some of the highlights of India's bustling capital
- A 4-day trek through stunning landscapes including the Chamba Valley
- Rafting fun and adrenalin adventure on the Ganges
- Mountain biking through Rajaji National Park
- Experience the longest zip line in Asia

Duration: 16 Days

Average group size: 5 - 12

Start: Sat 13 Oct 12

Finish: Sun 28 Oct 12



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 Delhi: After a midday introductory meeting we'll head out into the heart of India's capital. Delhi is a city whose cultural pedigree reflects the architectural influences of two distinct masters; the Moghul overlords of the 17th century and the British Raj of the 1930s. Beginning first with a visit to the new town we'll stroll down the Rajpath, to view the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the former palace of the Viceroy. Picking up some lunch along the way, we then take a walk past the sandstone walls of the Red Fort and down along the bustling thoroughfare of Chandi Chowk. Heading into the heart of Old Delhi we negotiate the narrow alleyways of Shahjahanabad, soaking up the rich atmosphere of this most Indian of cities, before emerging before the remarkable Jama Masjid Mosque, the largest of its kind anywhere in India.

Hotel (L,D)

Day 2: Delhi - Rishikesh - Shivpuri: Boarding the morning *Shatabdi Express* train to Haridwar, we plan to arrive late morning and take a short tour of what is one of Hinduism's holiest cities, before continuing on to Rishikesh by road. Nestling amongst the verdant foothills of the Himalayas, Rishikesh is considered the gateway into northern India's mountain landscapes and we will take a walking tour around the town that is considered the 'Yoga Capital of India'. After touring the town's temples and

ashrams, we end our day at the famous Parmath Ashram on the banks of the Ganges, where we will take part in an evening *arti* ceremony, the sacred 'Festival of Lights'. After the ceremony we then continue by road to our nearby forest lodge.

Forest Lodge (B,L,D)

Day 3: Shivpuri: Walk to Village School & various activities: An early morning nature walk will be followed by breakfast, after which we will take a short trek up to a neighbouring village. Here we will take tea with a local family before visiting the village's primary school. This provides us with an ideal opportunity to interact with the children and their teachers, learning a little more about their way of life. Returning to the lodge for lunch we then have the afternoon to partake in a variety of activities including some adventurous wall climbing and abseiling activities.

Forest Lodge (B,L,D)

Day 4: Trek: Shivpuri - Jhajhal: This morning we begin our trek, initially following a steadily climbing track that leads us past a bridge and up towards the small town of Badhal. Surrounded by farmland, the town is typical of the region, with a few traditional *kutch* houses and an ever-present population of children who are always ready to greet passers-by. Passing out of Badhal we cross a stream and head next through Katal, on our way to the town of Kathiya with its well-kept gardens of walnuts and sunflowers. The walking is relatively gentle now and we follow the stream all the way to Jhajhal where we find our overnight camp, set in a landscape of fertile farmland.

Approx 6-7 hours walking

Camp (B,L,D)

Day 5: Trek: Jhajhal - Gudyali: The first part of our trek today sees us following the road for the first kilometre or so, to the small settlement of Gharwal, where we find a local market. From here we then begin a steep climb to the village of Rampur, passing through a typical rural landscape as we head first to Khatyar and then Mod en route to our second night's camp at Gudyali.

Approx 5-6 hours walking

Camp (B,L,D)

Day 6: Trek: Gudyali - Danda Ki Chilli:

Our third day's trek starts with a short hike up to the town of Pantnagar, famous for being the home of India's first agricultural university. It is named after Govind Ballabh Pant, an Indian statesman who fought against the British for Indian independence. The Chamba Valley is rightly famed for its stunning landscapes. To the north lie the peaks of the Pir Panjal Range, to the south and south-east the Dhauladhar Mountains and to the east the craggy, snow-capped ridges of the Bangahal Ranges. We'll spend today trekking in the shadow of these majestic peaks, following a forest trail that takes us through remote villages and along a pine blanketed ridge to our overnight camp amongst the lush meadows of Danda Ki Chilli.

Approx 5-6 hours walking

Camp (B,L,D)

Day 7: Trek: Danda Ki Chilli - Chamba:

Our final day of trekking is mostly downhill, first to Rani Chauri, where we enter a wonderful rural landscape of apple orchards and fruit trees, and then on to Somalta, set among forests of pine and deodar trees. Our final destination today is the attractive hill town of Chamba, sat in the north-west of Himachal Pradesh, overlooking the River Ravi. The town is nearly 1000m above sea level, offering spectacular views of the Bandarpunch ranges and, on a good day, the towering presence of Nanda Devi, the second highest mountain in India. We will be spending the night here at a camp situated among a sheltering copse of apple orchards.

Approx 5-6 hours walking

Camp (B,L,D)

Day 8: Chamba - Byasghat: Breaking camp this morning we load up the vehicles and drive three hours to Devprayag, at the meeting point of the Alaknanda and Bhagirathi Rivers. Sacred to the Hindus, Devprayag is the spot where the Ganges takes on its true form ('Devaprayaga' is Sanskrit for *Holy Confluence*). One of the five sacred confluences, this is an important pilgrimage site for Hindus and many believe that both Lord Rama and King Dushratha came here to do penance. On arrival we will board rafts and take a scenic float down to the vast and secluded beach at Byasghat, where we

will camp for the night.

Camp (B,L,D)

Day 9: Byasghat:

Today offers us a full day of activities in and around Byasghat. There are options to enjoy some village walks into the surrounding countryside, or perhaps just relax and enjoy the natural beauty of this stunning location. The area is famed for its fishing too, especially its *Golden Mahseer*, considered by many to be the toughest fresh water fish to catch and subject to local conditions there'll be the option to try your hand at the 'Ganga Gold', one of the area's most famous fishing spots (additional fees apply)

Camp (B,L,D)

Day 10: Raft: Byasghat - Byasi:

An exciting morning on the river sees us heading down towards Kaudiyala to take on the adrenalin inducing grade III rapids at 'Daniel's Dip', before moving on to the even more exhilarating section known locally as 'The Wall', which is considered to be the most challenging on the river. Our destination today is the camp at Byasi, where we will be spending the night in luxury tents.

Approx 2 hrs rafting

Fixed Camp (B,L,D)

Day 11: Raft: Byasi - Shivpuri:

Continuing along the river today, we have another barrage of grade III rapids and river action, as we make our way down towards another beach camp close to Shivpuri. Located on a strip of silver sand and surrounded by the virgin forests of the Rajaji National Park, the camp is a great place to take a break from our river journey and provides a protected haven for a vast diversity of wildlife, including over 300 species of birds, as well as monkeys, elephants and wild boar.

Approx 4 hrs rafting

Fixed Camp (B,L,D)

Day 12: Shivpuri: Activities:

We have a full day today to make the most of this serene setting. Rest up and take a break from the action or crack on with more! The camp acts as a base for a number of adventure activities, with mini rope courses, kayaking, rock-climbing and mountain biking all on offer. For those looking for a little less activity today, you could try beach volleyball, gentle nature walks or even a relaxing yoga session.

Fixed Camp (B,L,D)

Day 13: Raft to Rishikesh; drive to Rajaji National Park: Taking to the water again, our final set of rapids sees us completing the river journey down to Rishikesh, but not before we have taken on the grade IV excitement of the 'Rollercoaster' and the 'Golf Course'! Transferring from river to road, we then drive the short distance to the Rajaji National Park, where we will enjoy an evening game drive and maybe even an elephant ride. Covering over 800 square kilometres of the forested Himalayan foothills near Haridwar, the park is renowned for its large population of wild elephants, as well as healthy numbers of tigers and leopards. The area is also an important staging area during the winter months for migratory birds crossing the Himalayas.

Fixed Camp (B,L,D)

Day 14: Mountain biking to Ghattu Ghat: Today we have more of an opportunity to explore Rajaji in a little more depth, with a full day mountain bike excursion through the park. We'll follow the western bank of the river up to Ghattu Ghat, where we will spend our final night under canvas.

Fixed Camp (B,L,D)

Day 15: Bungee jumping and zip lines. Train to Delhi: This morning, if you so wish, we'll be able to enjoy the thrill of a world class bungee-jump over a tributary of the River Ganges. The highest jump in the country, this 83 metre drop catapults you off a cantilevered platform high above the Huel River Valley. There will also be an opportunity to try out the longest zip line in Asia (both activities at additional costs). The end of our adventures then sees us heading back to Haridwar by road, to board the train back to Delhi for our final evening back in the Indian capital.

Hotel (B,L,D)

Day 16: Tour ends in Delhi: Our tour concludes after breakfast

(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 dry fort that is Fatehpur Sikri.
- B) Kashmir Extension. Fly up to Kashmir for a few days R&R (and recovery time) on the lakes.
- C) Seen something else in India you want to explore... Rajasthan, Goa, Kerala, the list is endless.

...then please just contact the office, where we can tailor your extension to suit your needs.

TOUR DETAILS

Tour Code: HAA/B

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. On this tour we are happy to offer an optional single supplement that will cover you for all nights of the tour.

NB: for those nights when we are camping you will get a single tent.

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 transport as mentioned in itinerary, inc. bikes
- All accommodation
- All entrance fees, as per itinerary.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

- Visas
- Local airport taxes
- Tips
- Beverages & any costs of a personal nature.
- International Flights
- Airport transfers (unless booking suggested flights through WF office)
- Bungee and Zip line costs approx USD\$85
- Fishing rod hire is USD\$35 per day and a local guide will be USD\$45 per day.

GETTING THERE

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

12OCT 9W121 LHR-DEL 20:45/10:00+1
28OCT 9W122 DEL-LHR 13:50/18:30

Key:
LHR - London Heathrow
DEL - Delhi
9W - Jet Airways

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 involve excellent hotel/guesthouse accommodation in Delhi, mountain tents, 'luxury' fixed tents (walk in with beds) and forest lodges.

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

Transport will be by air conditioned minibus and local transport in Delhi as well as bikes, rafts and our own two feet!

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...

For this trip you do need to be reasonably fit. There are no 'killer days' but the whole itinerary is geared to those that like to get active. The trek takes you to a high point of around 2,400m but the ascent is relatively gradual.

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.

Please pay particular attention to ensuring that you are covered for all the activities included in the 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 require a visa for India.

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, and to show a commitment to these values, 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, reforestation 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.

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.

Climate: The main thing to bear in mind when visiting Kashmir, especially if travelling up from the Indian plains, is that weather-wise, anything can happen. There is the potential for rain showers and chilly conditions on the high mountain passes. Therefore, as with so many of Wild Frontiers' mountain trips, you need to come prepared for any eventuality.

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.

NORTH INDIA - THE FACTS



Delhi: Capital of modern India, of the British Raj and the Moghul Empire, Delhi - the City of Djinns - is a fascinating place to explore. It is bursting with centuries of colourful history, 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 Bhavan, 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. 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 Shajehanabad. Here, among the jewellery, fabric and wedding bazaars you will find a world barely changed from that of Moghul times. With plenty more sight-seeing trips available to the Qutab Minar, Lodhi Gardens, the Lotus Temple or the awesome Humayun's Tomb (inspiration for the Taj Mahal), you can also go on shopping expeditions on Janpath, Santoshti or to the Khan Markets, or just sip a quiet cup of tea at the Imperial. Whichever you choose, Delhi can have you busy for days.



Rishikesh: Twenty-four kilometres upstream from Haridwar on the banks of the River Ganges is the holy town of Rishikesh. Literally, Rishi's (holy man) locks, this small town is the point where the holy Ganges crashes down in full glory onto huge boulders and creates long stretches of white sandy beaches. The banks are lined with ashrams, where saints and holy men rest before beginning their arduous pilgrimage up into the snow-covered land of the gods. Rishikesh is the lap of Hindu philosophy and learning, with several ashrams devoted to the understanding and propagation of the faith. Signs of religious rituals can be seen all over Rishikesh - in the numerous temples lining the banks of the Ganges, the mythological tales that you hear about various spots and even the shops that sell books and religious objects. Rishikesh first acquired prominence in the west when the Beatles visited to meet Maharishi Mahesh Yogi and begin their quest for spiritual salvation. During their stay they composed many of their best loved songs, including Blackbird, Dear Prudence (about Mia Farrow's sister who was also staying) and Ob-La-Dee, Ob-La Da... Life goes on! Even today, several foreign travellers besides the steady stream of Indian students visit the ashrams to study Hindu philosophy, yoga and Ayurvedic medicine.

The Himalayas: The Himalayas is the world's mightiest mountain range. No other chain can boast summits of over 8,000 metres - there are 14 such peaks in the Greater Himalaya - and hundreds over 7,000 metres. It stretches 2,700km across the subcontinent from Assam to Pakistan; in the east, Namche Barwa stands sentinel, while the west is guarded by the awesome Nanga Parbat.



The term Himalaya means 'Abode of Snow' and its icy peaks and ridges have long since inspired the poets. From its heavenly summits flow many of the subcontinents great rivers - the Ganges, Brahmaputra, Indus - and in its valleys and across its foothills lie some of the most magical lands on earth, offering the modern traveller a plethora of holiday opportunities.

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: www.wildfrontiers.co.uk

You can contact the office by emailing info@wildfrontiers.co.uk or we are 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 by AITO's Quality Charter and 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.