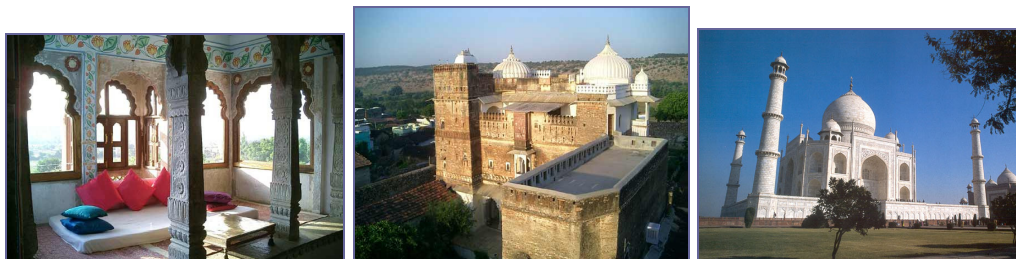


WILD FRONTIERS



Alternative Christmas in India Rajasthan & the Taj Mahal

Castle Bijaipur is a charming heritage hotel, situated in the heart of the spectacular Aravali Hills in Rajasthan, surrounded by forests of tamarisk, unspoilt rural villages, lakes and ancient temples, making it a perfect location for walks, horse rides, painting, bird watching or simple relaxation. Facilities on offer include a swimming pool, a masseur, bicycles and a stable full of beautiful Marwari horses. Yoga (suitable for beginners as well as the more advanced) is on offer everyday to help you unwind, and the beautiful lake city of Udaipur is only a couple of hours away. Besides the delights of the castle, this trip is all about exploring rural India from the comfort of the same place; this is Kipling's India, the India of your childhood imagination: a gentle land of bullock carts and bicycles, of elegant sari-clad women carrying water urns from the wells, or turbaned men working in the fields, of wandering elephants and their accompanying *sadhus*. Most trips to India rush from one place to another with barely enough time to see the sights, never mind experience the living culture. This trip will slow you down and give you the chance to experience India as it really is. All in all, this makes for one of our favourite trips and the perfect way to enjoy a well-earned Christmas break.

'Castle Bijaipur really is a magical place and I'm so happy to have spent my Christmas and New Year there. I couldn't have asked for a better end to one year and the start of a new one.' *Hazel Marshall*

HIGHLIGHTS

- Castle Bijaipur and surrounding villages
- Luxury tents by a lotus lake
- Yoga, cooking lessons, bikes and horses
- Agra and the Taj Mahal
- The historical sites of Delhi

Duration: 15 Days

Average group size: 5 - 25

Start: Sat 22 Dec 12

Finish: Sat 05 Jan 13



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.

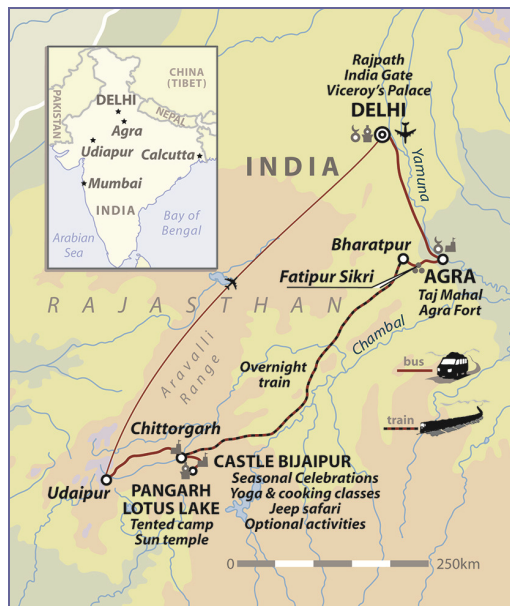
Small Group Size: We believe it is imperative to keep the group sizes small. Most trips are limited to a maximum of approximately 12 travellers, thus giving you more access to fragile cultures, better opportunities to interact with local people, and the knowledge you are making less of an impact while 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: Delhi: The tour starts at the hotel, around lunchtime. After we have settled in we will head into the New Town, visiting Rajpath, India Gate and the Viceroy's palace, before returning to the hotel. After some time to freshen up, we will go out for an early dinner at a restaurant in Connaught Place.

Hotel (D)

Day 2: Delhi - Udaipur - Bijaipur: Today we catch a midday flight south to Udaipur and then transfer to Castle Bijaipur which is to be our home for the next week. Once we are all settled we will take an orientation walk of the castle and depending on timings we will then take an afternoon jeep safari through the nearby villages, culminating with sundowners at a local dam, before returning to the castle for dinner.

Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 3: Bijaipur: After breakfast the yoga sessions will begin along with the activities, with horse rides, walks, cycle ride and swims available. Lunch and dinner will be had at various locations around the castle - by the pool, under the battlements, around campfires.

Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 4: Christmas Day: Celebrations at the castle. Start the day with a gentle yoga session on the rooftop - for those that want it - followed by a morning at leisure to read, walk, swim etc. After a glass of champagne we will have an extravagant lunch by the pool. In the

afternoon we will organise a local walk to work off those Christmas calories!

Hotel (B, L, D)

Days 5-9: Castle Bijaipur: From here on there will be yoga classes for early risers and evening yoga sessions for those who wish to take part. Cooking lessons will also be available on certain days, as will horse rides on the beautiful Marwari Horses, walks and cycle rides. We will also organise a jungle barbeque, a visit to Chittorgarh Fort and a traditional opium ceremony at a local Gujjar village. On one of these days we will decamp en masse to the beautiful lotus lake for a night at the charming lakeside camp. This is a gorgeous setting where the family have set up a luxury tented camp - don't think mountains, tents and roll mats, think Raj-style safari, with beds, linen and full en suite facilities! Those feeling energetic can take a day walk to the lake or even ride the bikes. We will be able to go boating on the lake with the local fishermen and swim. The following morning there's plenty of time to explore the 16th century fort and 8th century sun-worshiping temple, before returning to the castle. We will also be able to help you organize trips to Udaipur should you wish. (We'll hold five rooms at the castle for those not wishing to come to the lake)

Hotel and 1 night fixed camp (B, L, D, all days)

Day 10: New Year's Eve: The day will be free to carry on with the gentler pursuits of life, before the spectacular New Year's Eve party organized by Wild Frontiers. There will be a special tent erected, traditional Rajasthani dancers, snake charmers, fire-eaters and magicians will perform...the food will be superb and there will be free cocktails. A spectacular fireworks display will explode from the roof of the castle at midnight!

Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 11: New Year's Day: In the morning nurse hangovers with Ayurvedic massages and swims. The day is ours to see in the New Year how we please - for those that wish we might plant some trees in the WF arboretum or continue to enjoy any of the onsite facilities.

Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 12: Bijaipur - Chittor: Another free day at the castle before a final lunch,

saying our goodbyes to the family and transferring to Chittor. Here we will take dinner before boarding our overnight train to Mathra.

Overnight train (B, L, D)

Day 13: Mathura - Agra: Arriving early we will transfer to Agra, which will take a little over an hour. Here we will have a hefty breakfast at our hotel before heading out to see the iconic Taj Mahal. After spending time there we have the option of a visit to nearby Fatehpur Sikri. This magnificent fortified ghost city was built by the great Mughal Akbar, and abandoned in 1585 due to water shortages, the well preserved remains make for a fascinating visit. After lunch we return to Agra and explore the mighty riverside Fort comprising of exquisite palaces and mosques, and the baby Taj on the other side of the river. After this anyone wanting to revisit the Taj Mahal can do so. As the sun sets the colours change and the marble takes on gold and pink hues, so this is an extraordinary time of day to visit.

Hotel (B, L, D)

Day 14: Agra - Delhi: This morning we will depart early and drive up to Delhi. We will then check into our city centre hotel before having free time to enjoy the fascinating Indian capital, a place bursting with centuries of colourful history, of old imperial splendour and modern manic mayhem. Shopping, sightseeing in the new or old town or just lounging by the pool will round off your tour before our evening farewell dinner.

Hotel (B, D)

Day 15: Delhi The tour finishes 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?

There are so many options its hard to know where to begin, but here are a few ideas:

- Visit the Rajasthani cities of Jaipur, or Jodphur

- Head south for few days on the beach in Kerala or Goa
- Visit one of the nearby Tiger Parks

Contact the office for extension specifics.

TOUR DETAILS

Tour Code: ACI/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 except when on the overnight train.

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 - including 1 viewing of the Taj Mahal.

We also include horse riding, cycling, yoga, walking and certain excursions.

Trips to Udaipur and other local destinations need to be paid for locally at client's expense. The same goes for massages and henna painting, which are not included. The other thing to bear in mind is that the castle owns 6 horses so if there are many people wishing to ride we will have to use a rotation system - though we should state this has never been a problem so far. Here are a few approximate costs to help you budget:

Transfer to Udaipur: 2500rp/£32
Hotel in Udaipur: 1600rp/£20
Massage: 1500rp for 45 minutes £20
Drinks, snacks, laundry etc: usual hotel rates (Large Kingfisher beer, 150rps/£2; coke, 50rps/70p; Gin & Tonic 160rps/£2.20; toasted sandwich, 50rps/65p.
(Prices subject to currency fluctuation and correct at time of writing)

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

- Visas
- Local airport taxes (though these are normally included in your ticket price)
- Tips
- Beverages & any costs of a personal nature.
- International Flights
- Airport transfers (unless booking suggested flights through WF office)

GETTING THERE

Because of the increased fares over the Christmas period for this trip our suggested flights are (timings and flights subject to change):

21DEC 9W121 LHR-DEL 20:45/09:45+1
05JAN 9W122 DEL-LHR 12:45/16:55

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: Castle Bijaipur is one of our favourite spots in India and the focus of many of our trips to the region. All rooms are of a simple but lovely atmospheric standard and although they would probably not be described as luxury by current Western standards, they all exude charm and character and offer comfortable en suite facilities. In Delhi and Agra we use excellent 5 star hotels.

The wonderful tented accommodation on Pangarh Lake is located 12 kms to the south of Bijaipur village. There are 10 lake-facing Shikar Tents which are situated amidst the valleys of the Vindhya Ranges. There is a small restaurant at the camp and an 8th Century Sun Temple just a short walk away, which is worth a visit during your time there.

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

Transport on this trip will be by bus, mini-bus coasters or jeeps and cars and AC sleeper train.

Trip Grading:

Adventure Rating ❖❖❖❖❖
Comfort Grade ❖❖❖❖❖
Activity 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 will enjoy this tour.

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 horse riding (optional).

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 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 temperature in this part of Rajasthan at this time of the year should be very pleasant, much like spring in the Mediterranean or summer in UK; warm, clear days and cool nights... there will be plenty of time for sunbathing! The average daytime temp is usually between

22-28 degrees centigrade, while the evenings, nights and early mornings will range from 10-15 degrees. It should be said there is limited heating in the bedrooms so a pair of warm jim-jams and hot water bottle are advised.

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.

RAJASTHAN - THE FACTS



Destination: Castle Bijaipur is a charming 17th century Rajput fort set amongst some of Rajasthan's most beautiful countryside. Now converted into a fine heritage hotel, it is situated in the heart of the spectacular Aravali Hills, surrounded by forests of jacaranda, unspoilt rural villages, lakes and ancient temples, making it a perfect location for walks, horse rides, painting, bird watching or simple relaxation.

Daily Events: After an optional sunrise yoga session each morning there will be a particular events both AM and PM that you can join or not, depending on how you are feeling. These will include walks, rides, cycle trips, cooking lessons and a half-day trip to Chittorgarh Fort. We will also have an evening jeep safari where we will hope to spot fox, wolf, blue bull, chinkaras, hyena, jackal, and, if we are unbelievably lucky, one of the few leopards known to frequent these parts. But it should be stressed, if you wish to

bow out of any of these trips and do your own thing - be it on a horse, a bike or on foot; be it bird watching, painting or reading - of course you are perfectly at liberty to do so. As far as possible we want everyone to do what he or she would like.

Yoga: Yoga will take place every morning a little after sunrise (08.00) and some evenings (depending on interest) on the roof of the Victorian wing. As a variation, for a couple of evenings we might also practice under the mango trees at the nearby farmhouse. NB Please bring own mats.

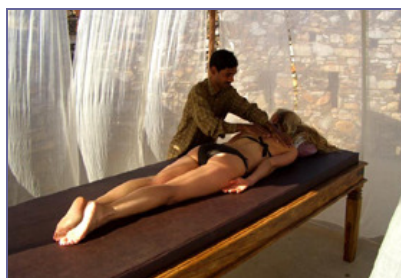


Excursions: For trips to nearby places of interest we can provide taxis with one day's notice, though you should be warned that hotels at this time of year generally need to be booked in advance, if you want to stay away for the night. Also it is worth remembering that Ranthambore Tiger Sanctuary is 6 hours away and Jaipur is a 5-hour slog. Udaipur represents the best option; not only is it by far the nicest town in the region it is also a mere 2½ hours away. We usually keep the 27th Dec relatively free of major activities so people can travel to Udaipur on a day trip and not miss out on jeep safaris etc. We can also arrange accommodation for you in any of the above-mentioned places, with notice. You will cover the cost of these trips directly with the taxi driver and hotel.



Massage: Both a male and female Ayurvedic masseur will be at the hotel throughout our stay. If you would like to take advantage of their services simply book them as and when you want them

and put it on your room bill. A 45min massage will cost approx 1500rps or £20.



Henna painting: on the early afternoon of New Years Eve henna painters will come to the hotel to paint the hands and feet of the women. This is a traditional art form and the designs and patterns they manage to weave across your hand really are quite incredible. For this there will be a small charge of 60rps per hand or foot.

NB: please note that if you are taking Doxycyclin as a malarial prophylactic that your skin may be very sensitive to the henna dye.



Camping by the Lotus Lake: This is a wonderful evening when we decamp en masse to Pangarh - the Lotus Lake - for an evening 'camping'. To be honest camping is a bit of a misnomer, as we will take advantage of the fabulous walk-in tents complete with comfortable beds, en suite facilities, a shaded dining area and yoga tent. We will cook up a delicious traditional meal, build a fire and sit out under the stars. You will also be able to swim in the lake and go for local walks.



New Years Eve Party: We have organised a colourful New Year's Eve Party where we will be expected to wear local garb; men in kurta pyjamas and turbans, women in saris or shalwar kameez. (We will have suitable clothing brought to the hotel, which you can buy or borrow, or you might like to pick it up in Chittor or Udaipur. Don't worry - they won't cost more than a few hundred rupees each). As entertainment we will be providing local musicians, dancers and possibly even snake charmers, fire-eaters and magicians. A buffet dinner will be served on the front lawn beneath the spectacular battlements, before a natural stage that will be surrounded by colourful shamyanas. The scene will be lit by lanterns and garlanded with flowers. At midnight we will even put on a fireworks display. We will also provide two delicious fruit cocktails.



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 on 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 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.