

# WILD FRONTIERS



## Village India: Slowly Down the Ganges Uttaranchal, UP & West Bengal

Sadly, very few visitors get to experience the day-to-day beauty of rural India, focusing instead on well known urban centres on or around the Golden Triangle. At Wild Frontiers we believe the time has come to step off the well-worn tourist trails and head into the heart of India, allowing you the chance to witness firsthand the life that the vast majority of Indians live. On this unique tour you will experience a combination of village life, wonderful mountain scenery, the tranquil world along India's holy riverbank and the hustle bustle of some of her most vibrant city centres. From Delhi to Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), via the Himalayas and the Ganges, this is a wonderful trip that will stay with you for a very long time.

"We really did go "Slowly down the Ganges"... sailing in small fishing boats was incredibly relaxing and the camping on clean sandbanks was wonderful. I have never seen such bright stars!" *Janet Locke*

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Walking in the foothills of the Himalayas
- Spotting tigers at Corbett Tiger Reserve
- The historical cities of Lucknow and Allahabad
- By river to Varanasi
- Kolkata, India's cultural heart

Duration: 16 Days

Average group size: 5 - 12

Start: Sat 27 Oct 12

Finish: Sun 11 Nov 12



WILD FRONTIERS Adventure Travel Ltd Tel: 00 44 (0) 20 7736 3968 Fax: 00 44 (0) 20 7751 0710  
Email: [info@wildfrontiers.co.uk](mailto:info@wildfrontiers.co.uk) Website: [www.wildfrontiers.co.uk](http://www.wildfrontiers.co.uk)

# 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 - Kathgodam:** The tour will start at midday at our hotel in Delhi. After this we will have lunch and then visit the splendours of the new town before going for a walk through the old where we'll take a stroll from the Red Fort, down Chandi Chowk - the old town's main thoroughfare - through the narrow alleyways of Shahjehanabad, to emerge at the beautiful Jama Masjid Mosque. From here we will return to Connaught Place. After an early dinner we will transfer to Old Delhi Station for night train to Kathgodam.

*Overnight train (L, D)*

**Day 2: Kathgodam - Mukteshwar:** Arrive at Kathgodam around 07:00, where the foothills of the Himalayas rise spectacularly out of the Indian plains. From here we'll drive towards Almora stopping for tea/coffee en-route before continuing on to Mukteshwar for breakfast. We will stay at the charming hotel-cum-home that is Sitla Estate. Sitla comprises a cluster of old British cottages, recently converted into a lovely guesthouse, located 2,000m above sea level with breathtaking views of the high Himalayas, including Nanda Devi. Our host here is Vikram Maira - a bon viveur and excellent cook who over the next two days will take us walking into the hills. This will prove a great place to unwind after the long journey.

*Cottage (B, L, D)*

**Day 3: Mukteshwar:** Sitla Estate is situated in an old apple estate at the top

of the village of Mukteshwar. Here you can drink coffee at dawn watching the sunrise over the Himalayan peak of Nanda Devi. Sitla Estate has a wonderful warmth and simplicity and the walks into the nearby hills are fabulous. Today we will be able to relax, shrug off our jet-lag and enjoy this charming place, with walks and visits to local communities.

*Cottage (B, L, D)*

**Day 4: Mukteshwar - Corbett Tiger Reserve:** After breakfast we drive back down out of the hills towards the famous Corbett Tiger Reserve. We should arrive at our accommodation just outside the park in time for lunch. With luck we should be there in time to have a late afternoon jeep safari to spot the famous tiger as well as a number of other rare and elusive animals.

*Hotel (B, L, D)*

**Day 5: Corbett Tiger Reserve:** Today we will travel further into the park in the hope of spotting the tigers. Afterwards we will return to the lodge and hopefully enjoy a nature walk.

*Hotel (B, L, D)*

**Day 6: Corbett Tiger Reserve - Rishikesh:** After last early-morning game drive in jeeps and breakfast we will move on to Rishikesh. Taking lunch en route we will arrive mid-afternoon and check into our hotel, and then explore this fascinating town and religious centre. Best seen at one's own pace we will simply point you in the right direction and

help you on your way. We then meet up in time for the colourful arti - or puja - on the ghats as the local people enjoy chanting and prayers and placing the candles in banana leaf boats to drift along the river. After this we will return to the hotel for dinner.

*Hotel (B, L, D)*

**Day 7: Rishikesh - Lucknow:** Today will be very relaxed as we enjoy more wanderings in Rishikesh, exploring the ashrams, temples and the local bazaar. Late afternoon we will transfer to Haridwar and have an early dinner before transferring to the train station for the 20.30 departure to Lucknow.

*Overnight train (B, L, D)*

**Day 8: Lucknow:** Arriving in the fascinating city of Lucknow at approximately 08.00 we will have all day to see where the bloody struggle of 1857 took place, when the Residency was under siege by Indian freedom fighters. Often overlooked on the main tourist trail, Lucknow is well worth a day's sight seeing and always proves one of the highlights of the trip.

*Hotel (B, L, D)*

**Day 9: Lucknow - Allahabad:** Today we will continue our journey along the Ganges to Allahabad - the holy town at the confluence of the Yamuna and Ganges Rivers. This meeting point of the rivers, the *Sangam*, is believed to have great soul-cleansing powers and is a major pilgrimage site. It is even more holy as the invisible Saraswati River is believed to join the Ganges and Yamuna Rivers at this point and every 12 years is the scene of the extraordinary Kumbh Mela. We will spend the late afternoon soaking up the atmosphere and if time permits visit some of the town's main attractions.

*Hotel (B, L, D)*

**Days 10/11: Slowly Down the Ganges:** Today the adventure really begins as we spend the next three days and two nights drifting slowly down the Ganges. This will be a peaceful and exotic trip as we pass interesting villages, temples and settlements, many of which we will stop at to see how life is in this most sacred of rural settings. Each evening we will find a suitable place to camp and enjoy the serenity of the flowing river. Taking our own cooks the food will be fabulous,

vegetarian to respect the spiritual customs of the river, and the camps will be very comfortable.

*Camping (B, L, D)*

**Day 12: Varanasi:** Arriving by boat into Varanasi (formerly known as Benares) in the afternoon will really amaze you... so much better than coming by bus or train. Once here we will check into our hotel, have a wash and change and then take a dusk boat ride along the ghats where we will witness the evening *arti* - when the pujas are given and the candles lit and floated on the river - before taking dinner at a local restaurant.

*Hotel (B, L, D)*

**Day 13: Varanasi - Kolkata:** Early morning we will take a boat ride on the Ganges to see the morning prayers. This is a wonderful time - particularly loved by photographers - as the mellow dawn light washes over the worshipers taking their morning dip. After this we will have free time to enjoy this amazing Indian city before an early dinner and departing to catch our overnight train to Kolkata.

*Overnight train (B, L, D)*

**Day 14: Kolkata:** Having followed India's great river, from close to its source almost to its end, we arrive at Kolkata on the banks of the Ganges and transfer to our hotel. With nothing scheduled before lunch you will have time to unwind before exploring this wonderfully manic city in the afternoon. We'll look to visit the Victoria Memorial, St Paul's Cathedral, the Writers Building, the Flower Market and the Howrah Bridge before relaxing over dinner.

*Hotel (B, L, D)*

**Day 15: Kolkata:** With an optional early start we'll look to catch the locals trading at the fish market before then wandering the scenic botanical gardens before lunch. After lunch we return to the water to relax on a final boat ride on the Hooghly (local tributary to the Ganges) before we end the afternoon's exploring by having dinner in one of the city's fine restaurants.

*Hotel (B, L, D)*

**Day 16: Kolkata:** The tour finishes with breakfast at the hotel this morning. (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 potential extensions to this trip it hard to know where to begin. Before the tour you could visit the Taj Mahal, Jaipur or any of the other fabulous towns and palaces of Rajasthan. After the tour take some extra days in Kolkata - which we strongly recommend; visit Darjeeling, Kalimpong or Glenburn Tea Estate; or visit the Sundarbans.

Contact the office for extension specifics.

#### TOUR DETAILS

**Tour Code:** SDG/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 except when on the overnight trains, and possibly at Sitla where there are only 6 rooms.

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 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)

#### GETTING THERE

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

26OCT 9W121 LHR-DEL 20:50/10:40+1  
11NOV 9W912 CCU-DEL 07:25/09:35  
11NOV 9W122 DEL-LHR 12:55/16:55

Key:

LHR - London Heathrow

DEL - Delhi

CCU - Kolkata

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** On this trip you will experience some fine accommodation, from wonderful and characterful private estates to private clubs and swanky hotels you will not be disappointed.

However, this is still India and in certain places facilities are sometimes not quite up to a Western standard and patience is occasionally required. While camping on the banks of the Ganges we will sleep in sturdy two-person tents. We will provide mattresses and blankets but if you want to be really snug you should bring your own sleeping bag and travel pillow.

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

**Transport** on this group tour will be on trains, boats, jeeps and in mini-bus coasters.

#### 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 who enjoys walking should 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 on 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](http://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](http://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, 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.

**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:** Travelling in Uttaranchal at this time of year will be clear and crisp but at 2,000m some warm clothes will be needed. However once onto the plains and the river, it will be beautifully warm and sultry.

**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.

## 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, 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 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 Sharjehanabad. 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; shopping expeditions on Janpath, Santoshti or Khan Markets; or a quiet cup of tea at the Imperial... Delhi can have you busy for days. All WILD FRONTIERS Village India groups stay at very good hotels situated close to Connaught Place, the thriving heart of New Delhi.



**Sitla Estate:** Sitla Estate is located in the Kumaon Himalayas in Uttarakhand at a height of 7000 feet, on a 39 acre property. Bordering a huge reserve of jungle it is an excellent holiday location in itself and serves as a very convenient launching pad for the various tours around the region. It also holds one of the most glorious views of the high Himalaya with Nanda Devi and a number of other peaks towering before it. The home itself was built by a British agent in the 1930s and is now owned and run by the charming Vikram Mira.

**Corbett Tiger Reserve:** The Corbett National Park is a primal jungle as Rudyard Kipling put it. Set up in 1936 as India's first national park, it was first delimited in consultation with that great hunter and conservator, Jim Corbett.



The park spans across some 920.9 square km at an altitude of 600 to 1100 metres above the foothills of the western Himalayas in the districts of Nainital and Pauri Garhwal in the state of Uttarakhand. The main feature of this ridged valley is the Ramganga River, running broadly west by south west, the catchment streams of which dissect the land into numerous little ridges and ravines. The topography is therefore very varied - the streams forming islands of 'sheesham' trees, the ridges being thickly foliated with 'sal' trees and the pastures carrying long grasses. In this variety of habitat abounds wildlife of enchanting beauty including 50 mammals, 577 birds and at least 25 reptiles. The river teems with

mahseer, gharial, mugger and flocks of cormorants. What is important of course are the tigers - there were 90 in 1984 - and here you have as good a chance of seeing this amazing animal as you do anywhere... though it should be stated this should be seen as the icing on the cake rather than the whole gâteau!



**The Ganges:** The Ganges River is the greatest waterway in India and is one of the longest rivers in the world. It begins high in the Himalayas as a pair of head streams in an ice cave in the mountains about 10,300 feet above sea level. The river then flows across the northern corner of India until it empties out into the Bay of Bengal. The Ganges River has always been known as a religious icon in the world and represents the focus of the Hindu religion. As such while on the Ganges we must treat it with the spiritual respect it deserves. It will be a journey down the lifeline of the great subcontinent.

**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.



**Lucknow:** Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, extends along the banks of the River Gomti. The creator of Lucknow as it is today was Nawab Asaf ud Daula, through the city became known as a centre for Urdu poetry and courtly diction during the reign of Wajid Ali Shah who was a connoisseur of music and poetry. It was during his reign that the British appropriated Awadh. Today, the city is dotted with remnants of its rich historic past. Lucknow is also known for its elaborate cuisine and 'Chikankaari' or exquisite shadow-work embroidery on fine muslin cloth and was also an important centre of the British Raj.

**Varanasi:** Once known as Benares, is an incredible city in northern India, sacred to Hindus and overflowing with history and culture... and a few other things besides! One of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, in many ways Varanasi epitomizes the very best and most challenging aspects of India, and it can be a little overwhelming. However, the scene of pilgrims doing their devotions in the River Ganges at sunrise set against the backdrop of the centuries old temples is probably one of the most impressive sights in the world. Over 60,000 people come down to the waters edge every day to take a dip in the sacred waters of the Ganges. Boat rides, especially at sunrise and sunset, are the best way to visit the ghats particularly to see the evening aarti.



**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 in the late afternoon and watch the heart of the city go about its business.

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](http://www.wildfrontiers.co.uk).

You can contact the office by email to [info@wildfrontiers.co.uk](mailto: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.

**How to book:**