

Rajasthan Guided Walking Holiday

Tour Style: Worldwide Multi-Centre

Destination: India

Trip code: RJWHW

Trip Walking Grade: 1



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

A wealth of culture and historical splendour await in the stunning Golden Triangle of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. The beautiful desert state of Rajasthan boasts a wealth of treasures waiting to be discovered by anyone willing to step off the beaten path. From the rich bird life of Keoladeo Ghana National Park and the wildlife of Ranthambore National Park to the wondrous beauty of the world-famous Taj Mahal, this stunning area will reward all who visit.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- A full programme of guided walks and sightseeing led by a specialist Local Leader
- 'With flight' holidays include return flights from the UK and hotel transfers
- Half Board with en-suite accommodation - 11 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 10 evening meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transport and tips

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience India's rich culture and vast variety of landscapes
- Watch the sun set over the legendary and beautiful Taj Mahal
- Discover a wildlife lovers' paradise in Ranthambore National Park
- Walk amongst the historical buildings in the 'Pink City' of Jaipur

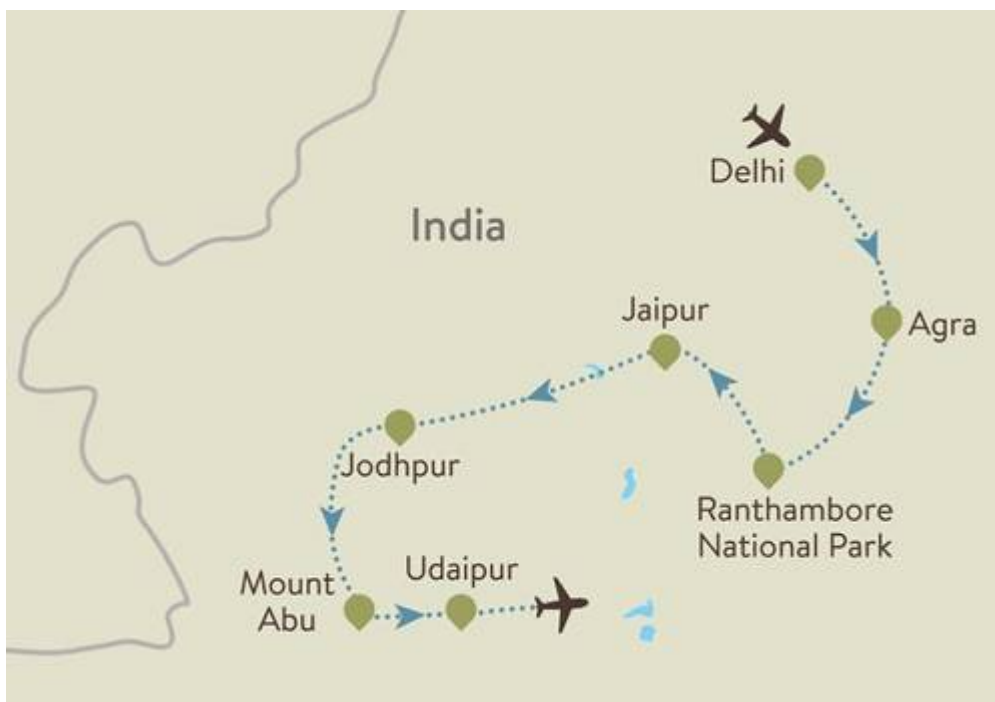
TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded Activity Level 1.

The perfect mix of walks and sightseeing. This is one of our easier walking holidays with a relaxed pace to ensure you get the most from your holiday in this magical part of the world. Walks range from approx 1½ to 5 miles (2km-8km) and include historical city tours, birding and wildlife walks, desert walks and walks on rugged terrain in a hill station. Walks in wildlife reserves will be mostly through dry tropical/deciduous forest. Trails may be uneven and care should be taken whilst walking.

This holiday is graded at Level 1.

The perfect mix of walks and sightseeing; walks are 1 – 5 miles (1½ - 9½km) with minimal ascent, and include historical city tours, wildlife walks, desert walks and walks on rugged terrain.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Depart UK

Departure from the UK

Day 2: Delhi

We arrive in Delhi early morning and transfer to our hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure: should you wish, there is an optional visit this afternoon (at additional cost, payable locally) to Qutub Minar, a towering

minaret which forms part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day 3: Agra And The Taj Mahal

Our adventure begins as we travel south to Agra (approx. 3½ hours) for a walking tour of its fort, once home to the Mughal emperors who ruled most of the Indian subcontinent and large parts of Central Asia. Distance: approx. 2 miles (3km). At the height of their power, the Mughal empire accounted for one quarter of the world's GDP and encompassed a quarter of the world's population.

We continue to the internationally renowned monument of the Taj Mahal, where we experience the unforgettable sight of the Taj Mahal at sunset. Thought by many to be the most beautiful building in the world, the Taj Mahal welcomes over 3 million visitors each year. This architectural wonder was created by the 17th century Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, in memory of his late wife, Mumtaz Mahal.

We take our time to explore this stunning site and to get some fabulous photos of this magnificent monument at sunset.

Please note that depending on the local weather conditions, we may visit the Taj Mahal before the fort.

Day 4 - 5: Keoladeo Ghana National Park & Ranthambore Wildlife Sanctuary

We depart early morning for our journey to Bharatpur and our visit to one of the world's best places for bird watching – Keoladeo Ghana National Park. An experienced bird watcher will guide us on a leisurely-paced walk around the sanctuary, helping us to spot some of the park's wildlife. Distance: 2½ miles (4km) with no ascent.

After lunch, we continue by train (approx. 2½ hours) to the world-famous tiger sanctuary of Ranthambore, staying nearby.

The next day, we enjoy two vehicle safaris into Ranthambore, one of Rajasthan's largest national parks and one of the world's most famous tiger sanctuaries. The park was once the hunting ground of the Maharajas of Jaipur; it is now a popular destination for wildlife enthusiasts, as it's one of the best places in India to see tigers in the wild. Watch out too, for leopards, hyena, deer, chital, langurs, macaques, wild boar and much more.

Day 6: Jaipur & Amer Fort

After breakfast we'll drive to Jaipur, Rajasthan's capital (approx. 4 hours). After checking in and lunch at the hotel, we drive to Amer where we enjoy a walking tour of the impressive 400-year old Amer fort and Jaigarh fort, built to protect Amer. Distance: 1½ miles (2½ km) with generally little ascent except a somewhat steep ½ mile (1km) ascent to Jaigarh fort.

Day 7: Jaipur To Jodhpur

The morning will be spent on a walking tour in Jaipur where we will start to appreciate why it is known as the 'Pink City'. We'll visit the City Palace in the heart of the Old City – an ornately decorated complex built on a grand scale. Parts of the building are still home to Indian royalty today. We'll also visit Hawa Mahal, a red and pink sandstone palace which sits at the edge of the City Palace. Also known as the 'Palace of the Winds' it was constructed to allow the ladies of court to view proceedings through latticed windows without being seen themselves. Then it's on to the Jantar Mantar, an interesting collection of some 20 astronomical observation instruments built from carved stone which date back to the 18th Century. The site includes the world's largest stone sundial. Distance: 2½ miles (4km).

Following our exploration of Jaipur we'll travel to Jodhpur, with a packed lunch on the coach. This is a fairly long drive (~8hrs) but is on excellent highways and will include breaks en route.

Day 8: Rao Jodha Rock Park & The Desert

We start the day with a walk in the Rao Jodha rock park accompanied by a naturalist, ending in the superb setting of the Mehrangarh Fort, with its soaring bastions and elaborately carved windows. This is one of the best-preserved forts in India. Distance: 2½ miles (4km).

This afternoon we drive out to the small desert town of Osijan, where we can explore something of rural Rajasthan – desert dunes, interspersed with green fields – on our desert walk. Distance: 1½ miles (2½km).

We return to the town, where we have time to wander around the market and temple, before we round the day off with a special traditional Rajasthani dinner.

Day 9 - 10: Mount Abu

An early morning start as we head for the hills and verdant slopes of Mount Abu. The contrast between the desert scenes of yesterday and the green scenes today is that of two different worlds, and very much part of Rajasthan's charm. The hill station of Mount Abu has long been the escape for many, a haven from the heat of the desert plains. At an altitude of 1,200m, the area's cooler climes, and a landscape of rivers, lakes and waterfalls, make this the perfect place to explore on foot. Later this afternoon, we'll hike along the "Tiger Path" - the original route up Mount Abu. This is an enjoyable walk along quiet trails, offering beautiful views of the Aravalli Range. Distance: 3 miles (5km).

On our second day we're treated to a walk in the hills that surround Mount Abu. We are guided by a local naturalist to ensure that we see the very best of the area. We'll be walking inside the Mount Abu Wildlife Sanctuary, which encompasses an area of over 328 sq km. Our walk will showcase the best parts of the Aravalli Ranges. It is home to a diverse range of flora and fauna and we may even be lucky enough to spot a sloth bear.

Our walk will end at the fabulous Dilwara temples. Built by the Jains in the 11th and 14th centuries, the marble carvings are particularly spectacular. The walk includes some short sections of scrambling and uneven tracks. Distance: 5 miles (8km).

Day 11: Udaipur

A fitting finale to our holiday, we journey to our final destination: beautiful Udaipur, or the City of Lakes. Surrounded by the Aravalli Range, this charming city is recognisable to many as the setting of the lake palace in the James Bond film, *Octopussy*.

After checking into our accommodation, we have a little time to relax before we take a walking tour to explore the city in the afternoon. We take in many of the city's famous sites, including the Udaipur City Palace. Distance: 1 mile (2km).

Day 12: Jaisamand Wildlife Sanctuary

We venture off the beaten track, to the little-known Jaisamand wildlife sanctuary, approx. 50 km from Udaipur. The tropical dry forest is rich in bird life and is home to flying squirrel, deer, boar, pangolin, hyena and wild bear. The lake, Jaisamand Lake, was created in the 17th century and is the second biggest manmade lake in the world.

We'll be led on the walks by a local naturalist, who is also Deputy Conservator of Forests for the Rajasthan government; and there will be plenty of time spent searching for wildlife. Distance: 4 miles (6½km) with minimal ascent.

From Jaisamand, we head to Bagh dhada, stopping at the lovely Jagat temple en route, where we'll have an opportunity to stretch our legs again on a short walk before heading back to Udaipur for our final night's celebrations. Distance: 2½ miles (4km).

Day 13: Departure Day

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight.

ACCOMMODATION

Crowne Plaza Okhla, New Delhi - Rajasthan

This 5-star hotel offers a comfortable stay and somewhere to relax on arrival in India. Located in South Delhi and near to the international airport, the hotel comprises over 200 well-appointed rooms. With modern facilities, the en-suite rooms feature TV, Wi-Fi and tea & coffee making facilities. The hotel has a spa offering traditional Indian therapies and an outdoor pool.

Jaypee Palace Hotel, Agra - Rajasthan

Located in the main tourist district, this hotel provides great access to the Taj Mahal. An exquisite blend of red sandstone and marble set within landscaped gardens, this hotel offers a mix of Mughal and contemporary architecture with modern amenities such as a pool and spa.

Shergarh, Ranthambore - Rajasthan

Located just outside Ranthambore National Park, Shergarh is a 5-star hotel. Each room overlooks the landscaped gardens and has its own style bringing alive the flora and fauna of the region.

Indana Palace, Jaipur - Rajasthan

Experience a world of maharajas and maharanis. Indana Palace has been designed to echo the palaces of Rajasthan: interiors feature marble, intricate wood work and gold leaf detail. This detailing is complemented with modern comforts and conveniences. The styling of the en-suite guest rooms echos that in the public spaces and feature a number of amenities including complimentary toiletries, TV, safe and tea/coffee making facilities.

ITC Hotel Jodphur - Rajasthan

Situated on the edge of the Thar desert, the ITC Hotel is an oasis of luxury offering relaxation against the backdrop of the arid landscape. The hotel has a full range of wellness and spa facilities including a pool, and the rooms are spacious and well appointed.

Bikaner Palace Hotel, Mount Abu - Rajasthan

Bikaner Palace Hotel features traditional Rajasthani architecture and offers large open courtyards, extensive grounds and an outdoor pool. Each bedroom has a contemporary design with a central focus on the Rajasthani canopy over the bed.

Lakend Resort Hotel, Udaipur - Rajasthan

Located on the shore of Lake Fatehsagar, this luxury hotel offers stunning views during our time in the City of Lakes. The en-suite guests rooms are spacious and modern, and feature views of the lake, the Aravalli Range and the hotel gardens. Amenities include air-conditioning, TV, tea/coffee making facilities, minibar and safes.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Weather & Seasonality

Rajasthan has a tropical desert climate. Our tours operate in the months of the year when it is cooler and is officially classed as winter, so it can be quite cool at night, particularly in the hilltown area of Mount Abu. Given that this is a desert state, rainfall is minimal, and it can be arid or sub-humid.

Joining Instructions (With Flights)

For those travelling on our HF Holidays' group flight, please proceed to the arrivals hall once you have passed through passport control, customs and baggage reclaim, when you arrive at your destination. Your leader or local leader will assemble the group in the arrivals hall. Look out for the HF Holidays' sign.

Joining Instructions (Without Flights)

If you are arriving ahead of the group, and are meeting them at the first hotel, please leave a message at the hotel reception for the HF Holidays' leader or local leader, detailing your room number, and a mobile telephone number if possible. The leader will contact you once the group arrives. If you are arriving after the group, a message will be left for you at the hotel reception, welcoming you and giving details of the time and place to meet the group. If your flight arrives before the group flight and you would like to join the transfer to the first hotel, please contact our Abroad Administration team on (0)20 8732 1261. They will have a list of the relevant transfer costs.

What To Bring

Suggested Kit List

As you'll be carrying your own luggage at airports and between your transport and hotels we recommend you try to keep your luggage to a minimum. These items are a general suggestion of what to pack for an active outdoor and walking holiday; depending on your destination, you may need more of some things and less – or none! – of others. You'll know best what you prefer to wear when out walking or while taking part in other outdoor activities.

- Walking boots (worn in), with good ankle support and spare bootlaces
- Walking socks
- Walking sandals
- Lightweight fleece, waterproof trousers and jacket
- Shorts and short-sleeved t-shirts
- Long trousers and long-sleeved light-coloured shirts with collars to protect from the sun.

We recommend wearing walking boots on all our walks, as these provide the best ankle support and grip. Modern 'approach shoes' offer appropriate levels of grip and may be worn on some low-level walks, but users should be aware that they offer less ankle support. Lightweight trainers are not recommended for any walks.

Your clothing should ideally be pre-treated with insect repellent and in-built sun protection (available from specialist clothing stores such as Rohan, Cotswold Outdoor).

- Warm fleece, scarf/buff hat and gloves
- Torch
- Comfortable clothes and shoes for evenings and sightseeing
- Sun protection – sun hat, sunglasses, high factor sunscreen and lip protection
- Water bottle – at least 2-litre capacity
- Lightweight survival bag
- Small/medium rucksack (30 litre) and a liner or cover to keep contents dry
- Insect repellent

- Universal travel plug

Personal first aid kit including: personal medication, tissues, plasters, blister kit, painkillers, antiseptic wipes, Imodium, rehydration sachets

Essential Equipment

- Passport (and copies)
- booking confirmation
- insurance cover note
- HF Holidays' registration form

Please ensure you have access to emergency funds should you need them; carrying a credit card is probably the most convenient method.

Optional Equipment

- walking ('approach') trainers
- trekking poles
- camera
- umbrella
- binoculars

Please note that your HF Holidays' leader reserves the right to refuse to take any guest on a walk should they consider that a lack of suitable clothing/footwear may affect safety.

Lonely Planet, Rajasthan, Deli & Agra (Oct 2017)

Safety On Your Holiday

Once you have made your booking, you will receive a pre-holiday questionnaire where we ask for details of next of kin and insurance details. You must complete and return this to us - we need to have this from you at least 10 weeks before travel.

Please also inform us of any medical situation which may affect your enjoyment of the holiday. This is important because our leaders have to consider both group and individual safety at all times.

Whilst out with the group, we respectfully request that you:

- Please listen to any safety instructions from the leader
- Keep group members in view, especially if weather or visibility is poor
- Please stay where you are if you become separated from the group. The leader will retrace their steps to find you.

Each leader carries a first aid kit but is not allowed to supply any medication including aspirin, paracetamol, antihistamines and antiseptic cream. You may wish to bring these items with you in your own kit (see Suggested Kit List).

In the unlikely event that your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack and call emergency services on 911. Please then call our emergency number and let us know there is a problem.

Insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so, and advise us of the insurance company and policy number.

We have negotiated special holiday insurance and full details of this cover can be found in our brochure or at www.hfholidays.co.uk. If you would like to purchase insurance from us, please call us on 020 8732 1220 or email holidayservices@hfholidays.co.uk.

For more information about healthcare abroad and its costs, please visit: www.dh.gov.uk/travellers.

If you are arranging your own travel insurance, please ensure it is adequate for your specific itinerary.

Generally, this should include cover for walking at altitudes over 2,000m, which will cover you for a wide range of our holidays.

Dietary Requirements

Please contact us as far in advance as possible if you have any specific dietary requirements and we will do our best to meet your needs.

If you require a specific meal on the flight, please let us know as soon as possible, and no later than 96 hours before travel.

Vaccinations & Health

Vaccinations & Health Information

This information is subject to change. In all cases, we **highly recommend** you consult your GP both for up to date details and for more information on what is appropriate to your situation. As a rule, travellers should be up to date with their routine vaccinations and boosters as recommended in the UK - including, for example, the MMR and diphtheria, tetanus, polio vaccines.

Requirements can change, and we recommend you check in good time ahead of your holiday.

It is recommended for most travellers to have:

- Diphtheria
- Hepatitis A
- Typhoid
- Tetanus
- Polio

Malaria prevention is recommended too; consult your doctor for what is best suited to your specific needs. Generally we recommend you take steps to avoid being bitten by mosquitos.

Please note: the use or possession of some common prescription or over-the-counter medicines is banned in some countries.

If you will be carrying medication, please check with the country's embassy/consulate prior to travel. As an extra precaution, it is recommended to:

- Keep medication in its original packet
- Take a copy of your prescription
- If possible, ask your chemist to write the name of your medication in the language of the country you're visiting

For further information on country specific advice, visit www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk or www.traveldoctor.co.uk

Passports & Visas

Passports

Your passport must be machine readable, with 2 blank pages for your visa and valid for a minimum of 180 days at the time of your visa application. India's Bureau of Immigration has announced that with immediate effect, foreign nationals who arrive at an Indian port of entry holding non-machine-readable passports will be denied entry.

Visas

British, Australian, Canadian and US citizens require an e-visa to enter India. This can be done online. Please visit the following website for further information and to apply: <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>

Current cost is \$100 (UK citizens; fee is non-refundable) plus a 2.5% credit card charge. You will need to upload a photo and complete the application form online; you may also be required to upload a PDF your passport photo page. You can apply for the e-visa a minimum 4 days in advance of your travel date, and as early as 120 days before you travel. The e-visa should be granted and emailed to you within 4 days. Costs can change at any time, so we advise that you check the most up to date prices on the visa application website.

You must confirm that the e-visa is granted before travelling and take a printed copy of the e-visa with you. Please ensure that you keep your passport and visa on you always, except when out walking.

Useful Information

India has a very varied linguistic landscape. Officially, twenty-three languages – including English – are recognised and more than 1,600 minor languages are spoken. This may go some way to explaining why English is still so widely and popularly spoken in India.

Whilst you can easily get around India with English, knowing a little of the local language can be helpful and basic pleasantries are always welcome when meeting locals:

'Namaste' – Hello/Goodbye

'Jee haang' – Yes

'Jee na-heeng' – No

'Suniye' – Excuse me

If you're particularly interested to know more, the Lonely Planet *India Phrasebook & Dictionary* (Sep 2014) may be useful or ask your local guide for more everyday phrases.

Luggage

Luggage Allowance

1 piece checked-in luggage (max 30kg)

Please check details of your airline's baggage allowance, as shown on your e-ticket. Remember to also check any connecting flights you may have booked.

Lost Or Damaged Luggage

If your bag or its contents are damaged or lost while in the airline's care, this should be reported to the baggage service agents at the airport on arrival. They will assess the damage; in some cases, the airline may decide to settle your claim immediately.

You will be given a reference to quote to your insurance company if an immediate settlement is not possible - in many cases, baggage claims can only be accepted in writing. A baggage claim form must be obtained from the airport.

Local Currency

The Rupee (Rs) is the official currency for India. The import and export of local currency is prohibited: you will need to exchange money on arrival in India.

Sometimes smaller shops and stalls will not accept notes larger than Rs 500. It is best to carry some smaller

notes with you too. In major cities, debit and credit cards are generally accepted, including American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa. However, in smaller towns and villages, choice is generally narrowed to cash or MasterCard and Visa. Currency can also be changed at banks, airports or authorised money changers. US Dollars and Pounds Sterling are the easiest currencies to exchange.

Local Time

GMT/UTC +5½ hours, India Standard Time

Electricity

220V, round 3 pin plugs (with a larger top pin). We recommend you take a universal adaptor.

Tipping

Tips have been included in your holiday price for key services such as local guide(s), driver and restaurants where your meal is included in the cost of the holiday.

You will need to tip for any meals not included, and any additional tips you may wish to give are at your own discretion. We recommend you take approx. £30pp per day for incidental items such as drinks, any souvenirs you may wish to purchase and any meals you need to purchase. This is a rough guide only.

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday & Sunday: 9am – 1pm Bank Holiday Monday: 9am – 1pm

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

ASSOCIATE'S FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying an Associate's fee of £10 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full life membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

Document produced: 21-10-2019

