



GOLDEN EAGLE LUXURY TRAINS

VOYAGES OF A LIFETIME BY PRIVATE TRAIN™



DARJEELING MAIL

ON BOARD THE DECCAN ODYSSEY
2025



GOLDEN EAGLE





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Since launching as GW Travel in 1989, we have developed a whole range of fully escorted rail cruises across Europe, Asia, Africa and North America, carrying many thousands of delighted passengers.

I have derived enormous pleasure over the last thirty years developing new and pioneering itineraries and India is no exception and, without doubt, one of my favourite destinations to visit by train. For 2025 we have again chartered the Deccan Odyssey private train and devised a series of our own unique and exclusive itineraries that extend the boundaries of luxury train travel in India.

I am delighted to announce we will be operating two departures aboard the Deccan Odyssey in 2025. The first, the Darjeeling Mail, a journey from Mumbai across Central India to Kolkata in West Bengal, which has proved enormously successful and sold out for our previous departures in a matter of weeks.



In addition I am pleased to see the return of the Madras Mail tour in October 2025 as we travel on the Deccan Odyssey from Mumbai south through the exotic coastal states of Goa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu before reaching Hyderabad and culminating in a stay at the stunning Taj Falaknuma hotel where we will be hosting a

Farewell Gala Dinner in the spectacular 101 Dining Hall and celebrate our journey which delivers an unforgettable travel experience.

I hope that you can join me on what promises to be two incredible journeys of discovery and celebration.

TIM LITTLER

President & Founder

Golden Eagle Luxury Trains Limited



DARJEELING MAIL

MUMBAI (BOMBAY) - UDAIPUR - JAIPUR - DELHI - FATEHPUR SIKRI
AGRA - VARANASI - DARJEELING - KOLKATA (CALCUTTA)

India's unique blend of history, culture and scenery have intoxicated western travellers for centuries.

It's no wonder: life on the subcontinent is more vibrant and colourful than almost anywhere else on the planet, something that's as true today as when the East India Company set up its first outposts in the 17th Century. Now booming, modern India is able to enjoy success without abandoning its rich and varied past: the country's history dates back over 5,000 years, blessing it with an amazing array of monuments, ruins, temples and cities.

With sights ranging from the Amber Fort and Varanasi to the incomparable Taj Mahal, this extraordinary country is one of the most rewarding destinations open to a traveller today. The railway arrived in India in 1853, and the country now has one of the world's biggest and busiest railway networks – almost 40,000 miles in all. It is said that trains created modern India more than anything else. What's certain is that today's India couldn't exist without it, and that the railway is by far the best way to see the country as it really is. From the warm-heartedness of the people to the scenery and the wonderful sights, a journey through India is something you'll never forget.

TOUR SCHEDULE

Feb 13 - Feb 27, 2025

DAILY TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1	Mumbai	DAY 6	Delhi	DAY 11	Darjeeling
DAY 2	Mumbai	DAY 7	Fatehpur Sikri	DAY 12	Darjeeling
DAY 3	Mumbai	DAY 8	Taj Mahal (Agra)	DAY 13	Darjeeling to Kolkata
DAY 4	Udaipur	DAY 9	Varanasi	DAY 14	Kolkata
DAY 5	Jaipur	DAY 10	Darjeeling	DAY 15	Kolkata



MUMBAI (BOMBAY)

MAHARASHTRA

DAY
1

Your voyage of discovery begins at Mumbai airport, where you will be met and transferred to the iconic five-star Taj Mahal Palace & Tower Mumbai for a luxurious two-night stay.

This flagship Taj hotel offers you splendid views of the Arabian Sea and Gateway of India. Alongside refined century-old hospitality this legendary hotel has played host to kings, dignitaries and eminent personalities from across the globe. (All meals today are at your own arrangements.)



MUMBAI

MAHARASHTRA

DAY
2

Elephanta Island, a lush island densely wooded with palm, mango and tamarind trees. The atmospheric and fascinating cave complex, which dates back to the 3rd – 5th century, was designed to honour the life of Lord Shiva, one of the most auspicious Hindu gods and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We return to the city for lunch at the famous seafood Trishna Restaurant and in the afternoon you are free to explore Mumbai independently or visit one of the colourful local markets. In the evening a welcome drinks reception is followed by dinner at your hotel where you can get to know your fellow travellers who will share this remarkable Indian odyssey.

MUMBAI

MAHARASHTRA

DAY
3

The compelling city of Mumbai is rich in culture and history. Today we visit the 'Dhobi Ghats', an intriguing outdoor laundry. The dhobi is a traditional laundryman who collects your dirty linen, washes it and returns it neatly pressed. The Ghats are the laundries where they practice this historic tradition. Our tour then takes in Fort Bombay and Gandhi's House, now turned in to a



fascinating museum depicting his inspirational life. Lunch is served in a local restaurant.

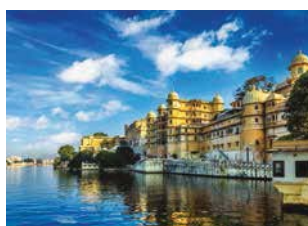
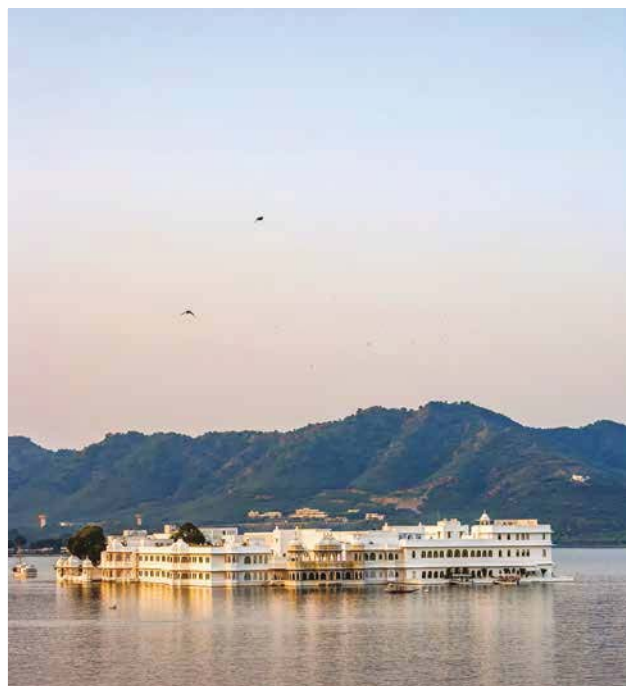
Mid-afternoon sees us boarding our private train, the *Deccan Odyssey*, a perfect way to experience the colour, character and amazing diversity of India. Settle into your beautifully appointed private en-suite cabin and enjoy the hospitable atmosphere of the stylish Bar Lounge Car before experiencing fine Indian or western cuisine freshly prepared on board by the *Deccan Odyssey* chefs in our Kitchen Car.

UDAIPUR

RAJASTAN

DAY
4

We spend a leisurely morning on board as the landscape and spirit of India unfolds before us. We then have the opportunity to listen to a talk on Indian culture before arriving at Udaipur, known as the 'City of Lakes' or 'Venice of the East'. A beguiling tapestry of breathtaking lakes and opulently majestic palaces from the Rajput era await your discovery. The afternoon is spent admiring the awe-inspiring beauty of the Lake Palace constructed entirely of marble, which sits on its own island in the shimmering waters of Pichola Lake, and visiting the medieval grandeur of City Palace.





JAIPUR

RAJASTHAN

DAY
5

With a breakfast arrival into the capital of Rajasthan, the 'Pink City' of Jaipur overwhelms the senses as we embrace its rich and colourful past. This morning we visit the Amber Fort and explore its breathtaking and ornate majesty, including the magnificent Hall of Mirrors.

After lunch in a local restaurant, we continue our exploration with a tour of the Jantar Mantar Observatory, the imposing and vast City Palace and the beautiful Hawa Mahal, or Palace of Winds. This delicately stunning, yet enduring monument is constructed entirely of pink sandstone and was built in 1799 to allow royal ladies to discreetly observe everyday life. Finally, if time permits, we explore a famous fabric market before returning to our train to refresh ourselves.

This evening we dine in the elegant Rambagh Palace Hotel, originally built in 1835 and once the residence of the Maharaja of Jaipur. The palace retains its elaborate splendour, extravagantly decorated with hand-carved marble 'jalis' or latticework, sandstone balustrades, cupolas and 'chattris' or cenotaphs, and elaborate Mughal Gardens.

Ladies in Rajasthani costumes perform the traditional garlanding 'aarti' and 'tikka' ceremonies while the music of the "Shenai" welcomes you. A delightful display of fireworks is followed by a barbeque with the illuminated Palace as a stunning backdrop.

The dinner will be served outdoor on one of lawns of the palace. A truly memorable end to a fantastic day in the Pink City.



DELHI

NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY

DAY
6

One of the oldest cities in the world, Delhi is a bustling and vibrant city, famous for its traditional bazaars and street markets.

Our fascinating city tour in this pulsating metropolis takes in the Raj Ghat memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, the World Heritage Site of Humayun's Tomb, the first example of Mughal architecture in India, and the towering Indo-Islamic Qutab Minar, the tallest brick minaret in the world at 238ft (73m) which dates from 1368.

Tonight, we enjoy a sumptuous dinner on board our private train as we continue our journey across India.





FATEHPUR SIKRI

UTTAR PRADESH

DAY
7

After breakfast, we visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Fatehpur Sikri. Known as a 'ghost city' this red sandstone town was abandoned only shortly after being built due to lack of water in 1585.

This afternoon our journey takes us to Agra Fort, a magnificent structure that dominates the skyline and acted as the main residence for emperors of the Mughal Dynasty until 1638. Its red sandstone walls run for 2.5 km and contain many fairytale palaces and two beautifully preserved mosques.

TAJ MAHAL (AGRA)

UTTAR PRADESH

DAY
8

Today is devoted to visiting the impossibly beautiful Taj Mahal, built entirely of white marble on the south bank of the Yamuna river and indisputably is the most famous building in the world. Completed in 1648 by Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan, the Taj Mahal is a mausoleum for his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, and took 22 years and 20,000 artisan workers to complete. Nowhere else on the planet will you experience such a poignant architectural statement dedicated to the enduring nature of human love and inspirational artistry.

VARANASI

UTTAR PRADESH

DAY
9

Varanasi simply has to be experienced to be understood. Our early morning arrival at Varanasi, one of India's most sacred and spiritual places, offers us the opportunity to discover what is believed to be the oldest continually inhabited city in the world.

Situated on the banks of the River Ganges this cultural and religious centre, known as the City of Light and established between 3 - 5,000 years ago, is a focus for Hindu pilgrims who bathe in the sacred waters of the Ganges and perform funeral rites.

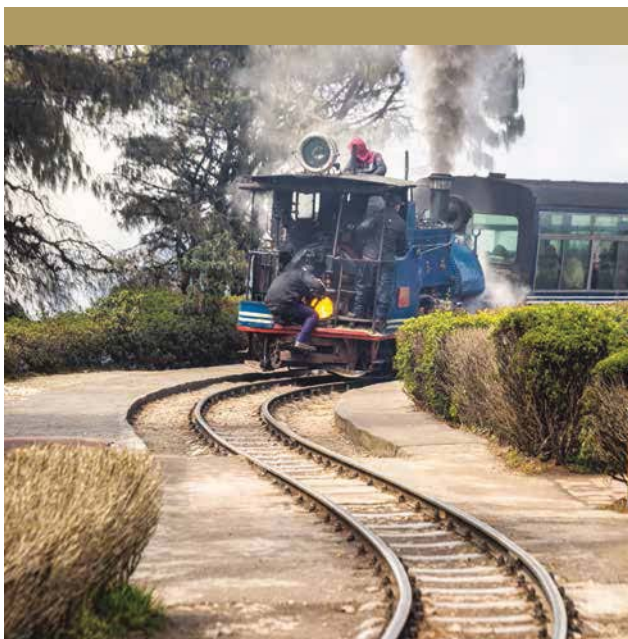
We are privileged to witness these time-honoured ceremonies before departing for a private river cruise. Our exploration of Varanasi is completed with a guided walk through the winding ancient streets, home to some 2,000 temples, of this remarkable city.

DARJEELING

WEST BENGAL

DAY
10

Today we leave the *Deccan Odyssey* and embark on a spectacular journey to the hill station of Darjeeling. Choose to travel either by bus (3-4 hours) or embark on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, itself listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which



DARJEELING

WEST BENGAL

DAY
12

This morning, weather permitting, we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to watch the sun rising over the snow-capped Himalayas, with Mount Everest rising majestically 200 miles away on the horizon.

Your early morning trip to Tiger Hill is a quintessential experience that captures the very character of one of our planet's most overwhelming natural sights. This afternoon we visit a local tea plantation and sample the freshest cup of tea most of us are ever likely to taste!

DARJEELING TO KOLKATA

WEST BENGAL

DAY
13

After an English breakfast, we leave this tranquil haven to embark on a private transfer from Darjeeling along the Nepalese border to Bagdogra airport for a short commercial flight to Kolkata. On the way you will enjoy panoramic views of the extensive tea plantations that unfurl around us.

On arrival we transfer to the five-star Taj Bengal hotel for a two-night stay. Prominent landmarks - Victoria Memorial, Royal Calcutta Race Course, Horticultural Gardens, National Library, Eden Gardens and the Alipore Zoological Gardens - are all within walking distance.

takes about 6 hours from Tindharia. Also known as the 'Toy Train' it is a 2ft (610mm) narrow-gauge railway.

Travelling through awe-inspiring scenery our locomotive zigzags and loops gaining height to reach the cooler air of India's most famous hill station. We climb to Ghum, which situated at 7,407 feet (2,258 metres) is the highest railway station in India before dropping into Darjeeling itself, first stopping at the graceful loop at Batasia, where snow-covered Mount Kanchenjunga (third highest in the world) dominates the skyline. A packed lunch is served on board the train before our arrival into colonial Darjeeling.

We have dinner in the Hotel Mayfair, where we will stay for three nights. Perched on a picturesque hill with beautiful views of the valley, the Mayfair is a heritage hotel that exudes old-world charm and quiet elegance.

DARJEELING

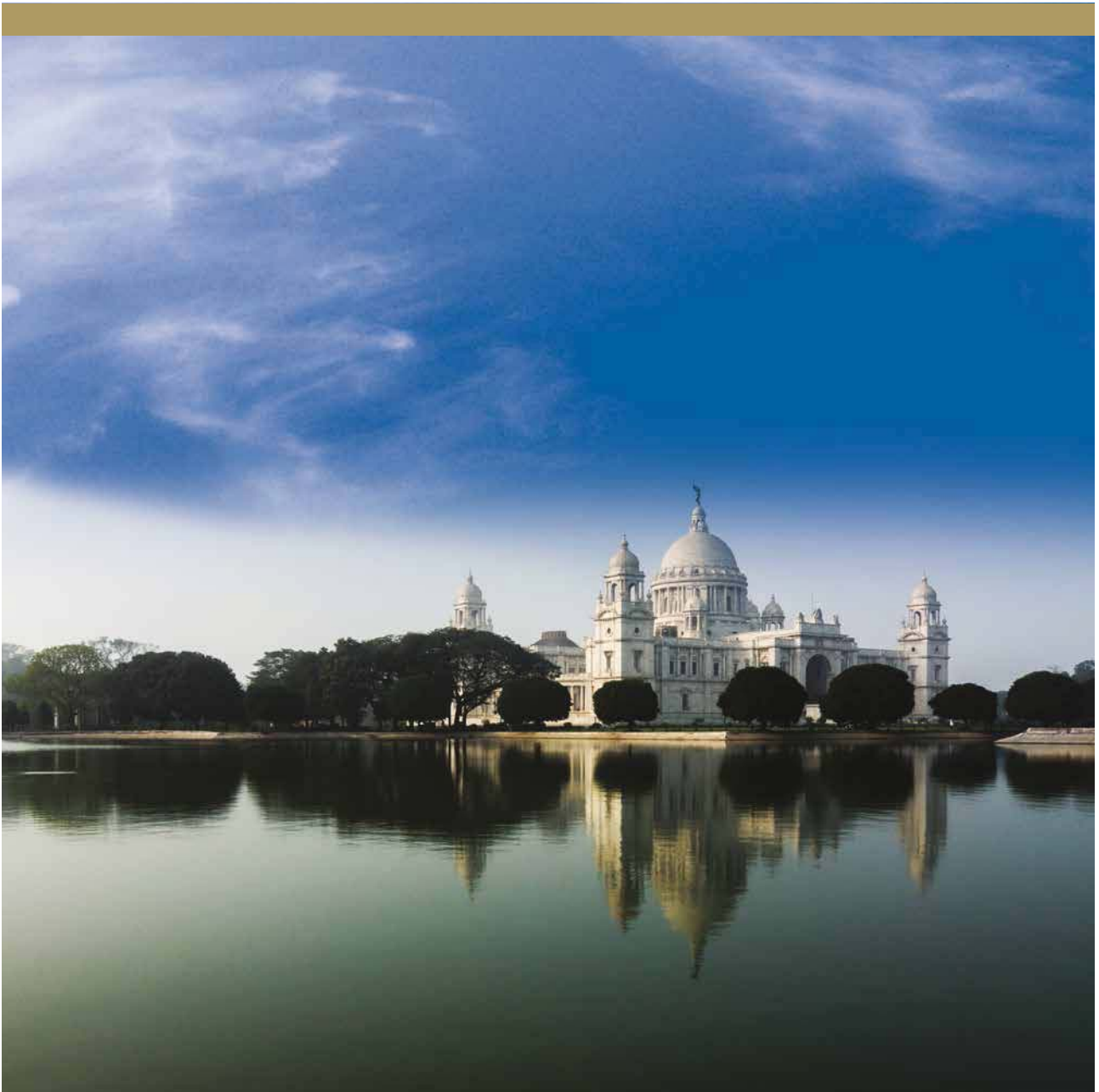
WEST BENGAL

DAY
11

We awaken to the breathtaking scenery of Mount Kanchenjunga and this morning we can ride the DHR up to Batasia Loop and Ghum, climbing 606 feet during its 8km journey. The senses reel as we experience the chaotic nature of roadside life, passing within inches of colourful shops, houses and enthralling monasteries.

Our afternoon tour of Darjeeling provides a wonderful opportunity to experience the elegant grandeur of colonial life, as well as the contrasting culture of a Tibetan refugee centre and an absorbing visit to the Himalayan Institute where we learn about some of the famous mountaineering expeditions.





KOLKATA (CALCUTTA)

WEST BENGAL

DAY
14

Kolkata is a sensory delight and cultural extravaganza that is constantly evolving. After breakfast, we spend the day exploring and absorbing the many sights that comprise this enthralling city that was once India's capital.

Our tour includes a visit to the Victoria Memorial, one of the finest and most prominent buildings in Kolkata which houses a museum dedicated to the history of India.

We then move on to Dalhousie Square, the bustling hub of English colonial power and trade during the two centuries of British rule. Our final stop is South Park Cemetery, an atmospheric and still space within the clamour of modern day Kolkata. In the evening we say goodbye to our fellow travelling companions who have shared this remarkable journey with us at our Farewell Dinner.

KOLKATA (CALCUTTA)

WEST BENGAL

DAY
15

Following breakfast, you will be transferred to Kolkata Airport to begin your journey home.



GOLDEN EAGLE

DECCAN ODYSSEY



To travel aboard the Deccan Odyssey is to experience the finest traditions of rail travel in a train specially built to cater for the demands of today's most discerning traveller.

On board, the spacious and comfortable cabins, the exceptionally high-quality dining and the attention to detail of the staff combine to create what is effectively a rolling luxury hotel.



Fully air-conditioned, the Deccan Odyssey offers a choice of Deluxe Class en-suite cabins with either twin or double beds – or Presidential Suites, in which each cabin has a separate sitting room and two bathrooms.

All the accommodation is spacious, thanks to the generous proportions of the country's broad gauge railway.

Our train includes two splendid Restaurant Cars, offering a wonderful variety of international cuisine.

Prepared and served with the highest attention to detail, the Indian and international food offered here is to the highest culinary standards. Traditionally decorated, these beautifully designed cars offer a superb and relaxed setting in which to enjoy your meals and watch India's remarkable scenery unfold.

Another highlight is the splendidly appointed Lounge Car, which includes a well-stocked bar offering the perfect surroundings for a quiet drink with your fellow passengers.

There is a dedicated Spa Car where passengers can enjoy a traditional Ayurvedic massage, enjoy the heat of the sauna, visit the on board hairdressing salon, or for those with a more energetic disposition work out in the gym while the train is underway.

Alternatively, you can relax in the Reception Car which has a library and reading area, a fully-equipped business centre and a large plasma screen.



GOLDEN EAGLE

PRESIDENTIAL SUITES



PRESIDENTIAL SUITE SPECIFICATION

- Sleeps 2 in King Size bed
- 2 En-suite bathrooms with separate shower
- Air-conditioned throughout
- Television screen with USB and HDMI ports
- Hairdryer
- Separate lounge/seating area with writing desk
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water in cabin
- Laundry Service available for a fee

PRESIDENTIAL SUITE DIMENSIONS

CABIN AREA	191sq ft (18sq m)
CABIN LENGTH	27ft 7ins (8.4m)
CABIN WIDTH	7ft 7ins (2.3m)
DOUBLE BED WIDTH	5ft 0ins (1.5m)
BED LENGTH	6ft 5ins (2.0m)
CABINS PER CAR	2



Book a Presidential Suite and also **receive room upgrades at each hotel** within the itineraries.



GOLDEN EAGLE

DELUXE CLASS



DELUXE CLASS SPECIFICATION

- Sleeps 2 in Twin Bed or Queen Size Bed
- En-suite bathroom with separate shower
- Air-conditioned throughout
- Hairdryer
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water in cabin
- Laundry Service available for a fee

DELUXE CLASS DIMENSIONS

CABIN AREA	95sq ft (9sq m)
CABIN LENGTH	13ft 0ins (3.97m)
CABIN WIDTH	7ft 7ins (2.3m)
BED WIDTH TWIN	3ft 0ins (0.9m)
DOUBLE BED WIDTH	5ft 0ins (1.5m)
BED LENGTH	6ft 5ins (2.0m)
CABINS PER CAR	4