



INSTANT EXPERT

a travel professional's guide to India

Abercrombie & Kent



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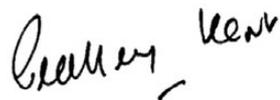
INDIA, NEPAL AND BHUTAN

There is travel and there is
Abercrombie & Kent.

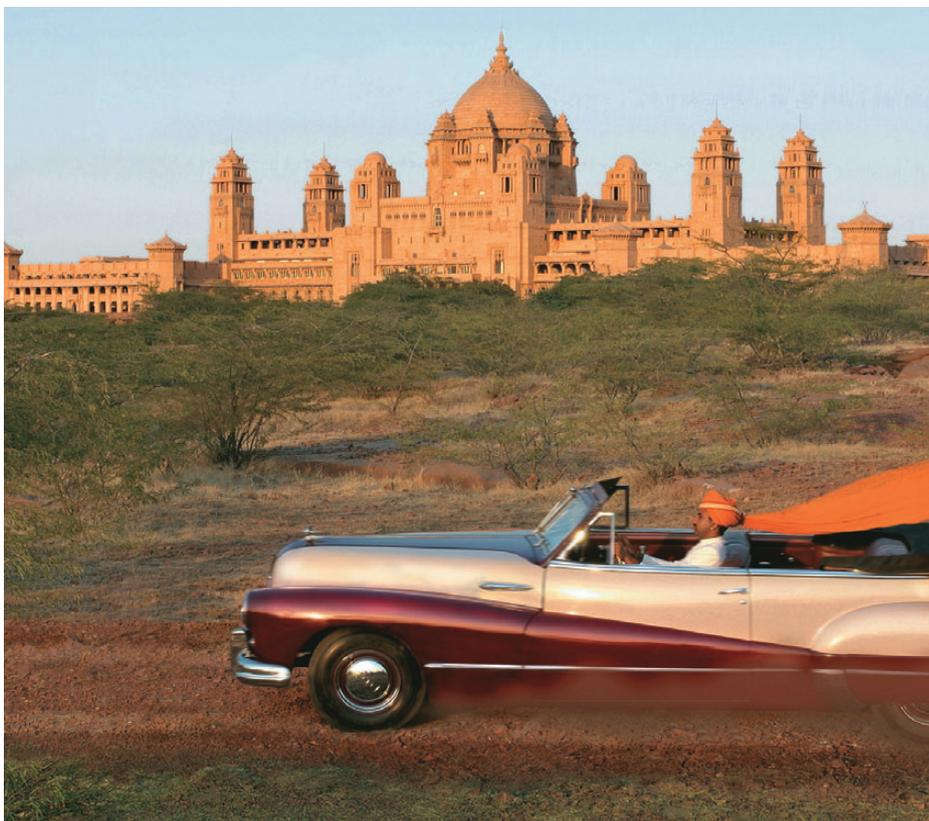
From the moment you step onto its shores every sense will come alive by the splendour of this incredible country. The sheer diversity of this land - its landscape, people, and cultures - is amazing. The sights are spectacular - majestic mountains, stark deserts, and palm fringed beaches, royal cities, monuments and palaces, dazzling bazaars and festivals; the smells are intoxicating - a concoction of aromatic incense and fragrant spices; and the feelings are extraordinary - spiritual and uplifting. Spirituality is the common thread running through this land and you will see it in the multitude of rituals and exquisite temples. Far from being a culture locked away in its past, India's ancient traditions are very much alive and kicking and you can't miss them! Wherever you turn you will never be far from a joyous festival or celebration. India is more than just a country, it is a journey of the body, mind and soul. At the same time, it is a modern nation with ultra-modern technology and mega malls.

Founded as a luxury safari company in 1962, we have the experience of operating in more than 100 countries, and caring for more than 200,000 clients. Join us as we help you explore the wonders of this amazing nation and take home memories of 'Incredible India'.

With best regards,



Geoffrey Kent



Abercrombie & Kent in India

At Abercrombie & Kent, we have dedicated ourselves to making the exploration of India a stress free and enjoyable voyage of discovery.

A destination management company with five decades of international experience, Abercrombie & Kent established its India operations in New Delhi in 1985. Today the company is synonymous with quality travel management and its primary strength lies in its capacity to offer a wide variety of travel-related services under one roof.

Our four offices in India with 85 employees offer a full range of travel services for small groups and individuals. We pride ourselves on specialized services which include multi-lingual staff, highly knowledgeable tour guides, access to finest naturalists, a select fleet of cars and coaches, special rates with preferential treatment, a high standard of quality control, 24/7 access and offices worldwide.

Our exclusive MICE department has customised programs for groups of 20 to 850 people. A partial list of our clients include Abbott, Canon, Cepsa, Gamesa, Ferrero-Rocher, Generali, IBM, L'Oreal, McKinsey, Nestle, Novartis, RAS Insurance, Repsol, Skoda, Tetra Pak, Total, WPO, YPO, among others.

Whether your clients are travelling independently, on a shore excursion, as part of a group or on a family holiday, our highly experienced team will always go over and above to ensure an unforgettable experience.

We have access to private homes, Royalty and celebrities. Unique experiences such as a private discourse with a spiritual guru, hi-tea with a museum curator and gourmet sojourn with a star Chef enhance the guest experience.



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INDIA, NEPAL AND BHUTAN



A&K in North India

Perhaps the most quintessentially Indian of all its regions, Northern India is unrivalled in its array and diversity of natural beauty and cultural wealth. Combining breathtaking landscape, including the majestic Himalayan peaks, lush forests and valleys teeming with wildlife, the mighty Ganges, stark deserts, and ageless rainforests, with royal cities, spectacular monuments and vibrant markets the region offers visitors thrilling outdoor adventures as well as spectacular cultural excursions. The icons Delhi – The capital, described by Jawaharlal Nehru as “the symbol of old India and new”, is a buzzing international city yet replete with magnificent glimpses of its rich history. Agra – home to the Taj Mahal, as well as Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri, two more UNESCO World Heritage sites. Jaipur – the Pink City, named for its trademark building colour, is one of the most important heritage cities of India and an apt introduction into the dazzling western state of Rajasthan, strewn with historic forts and palaces, riotous colours and vibrant traditions. The spiritual East of the capital lies the astounding holy city of Varanasi and the exquisite Khajuraho temples, also accredited with world heritage status. The natural beauty, whether on exhilarating mountain treks, thrilling safaris or quiet forest walks, opportunities to savour the regions wondrous natural beauty are plentiful.

FORTS & PALACES

RAJASTHAN & GUJARAT

Although princely states are scattered across India, Rajasthan is widely thought of as the real Land of the Maharajas and their stunning palaces. No other state compares to the colours of Rajasthan and the

magnificence of its Rajput and Mughal legacy. Gujarat, although lesser known, is a state of its own distinct beauty and traditions. Together both the states are a treasure trove of ancient palaces, forts and temples that showcase an astonishing blend of Hindu, Jain and Islamic traditions.

TAJ MAHAL

Considered one of the most beautiful monuments in the world, the Taj Mahal has been described by poet Rabindranath Tagore as “a teardrop on the cheek of time” and American novelist Bayard Taylor called it “a castle brought down to earth, fixed for the wonder of ages”. An architectural marvel, made completely from flawless marble and inlaid with precious stones, the Taj was commissioned in 1631 by Emperor Shah Jahan in

memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. A glimpse of this wonder of the world is truly a vision to behold.

NATIONAL PARKS

North India offers the most splendid national parks and reserves, home to some of the greatest bio diversity in the world. Whatever the draw - tigers of Ranthambore, Kanha and Bandhavgarh or the one-horned rhino at Kaziranga in the North East - allow yourself to fully explore the regions wildlife, birds, flora and fauna.

MAHARAJA'S EXPRESS TRAIN

Recreating opulent travel of a bygone era, the Maharaja's Express is a luxury train that offers passengers a royal travel experience and the best in hospitality that India has to offer. There are five



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A&K in North India



pan-Indian itineraries to choose from, covering the country's unmissable sights and destinations. The train's beautifully-appointed interiors include deluxe cabins with private bathrooms and state-of-the-art amenities, two fine dining restaurants and two bar cars complemented by five star service. Along with its lavish on board facilities, it is the off train excursion programs that make a trip on the Maharaja Express truly memorable.

THE HIMALAYAS

The Himalayas are one of the greatest mountain ranges in the world and home to nine of its ten highest peaks. Yet far from being just a mountain lover's paradise, the massive expanse of the Indian Himalayas cradles a staggering geographical diversity as well as amazing

cultural sites. Beautiful glacial rivers, alpine valleys and wildflower fields can be enjoyed along with quaint hill stations, sacred Hindu shrines and ancient Buddhist monasteries by visitors of all interests.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Few calendars are as punctuated with festivals as India's - from exuberant religious festivals and fairs to simpler, traditional occasions and now, newer literary and cultural events.

- Jaipur Literature Festival – January
- India Art Fair, Delhi – January
- Desert Festival, Jaisalmer – February
- World Sacred Spirit Festival, Nagaur & Jodhpur – February
- Khajuraho Dance Festival – February / March
- Punakha Festival, Bhutan – February / March
- Holi – March
- Paro Festival, Bhutan – March / April
- Hemis Festival, Ladakh – June / July
- Nehru Trophy Boat Race, Kerala – August
- Rajasthan International Folk Festival, Jodhpur – October
- Diwali – October/November
- Pushkar Fair, Rajasthan – October / November
- Hornbill Festival, Kohima – December

NORTH INDIA

Best time to travel: October to March • Best value time: April to September
 Country capital: New Delhi • Currency: Indian Rupees • Time difference: GMT + 5½ hours
 Visa: Valid visa required (E-Tourist Visa available for several nationalities)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temp °C	21	24	31	36	41	39	36	34	34	34	29	23
Temp F	70	75	88	97	106	102	97	93	93	93	84	73
Rain (mm)	23	18	13	8	13	74	180	173	117	10	3	10

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INDIA, NEPAL AND BHUTAN



A&K in South India

As distinct as possible from the North, tropical South India is as vibrant and exotic. Its rich history, architectural grandeur and magnificent natural beauty is reflected in stupendous temples distinguished by towering gateways or gopurams, tranquil backwaters and a coastline studded with gleaming beaches. Equally amazing is its cultural heritage – robust dance forms such as Kathakali, delectable cuisine and world famous Ayurvedic therapies. Mumbai and Chennai form the gateways to South India. Karnataka's top draws include the garden city of Bengaluru, historic Mysuru with its spectacular Mysore Palace and Hampi, site of the ruins of ancient Hindu temples. Picturesque Kerala is synonymous with backwater cruises and Ayurvedic treatments. The quaint hill station of Ooty, Kochi, the oldest European settlement in India, and visits to tea and spice plantations add to an unforgettable experience.



TEMPLES & BEACHES

Nowhere is South India's distinct architecture as visible as in its spectacular temples. Southern India developed a unique Dravidian style characterised by bright, deity-covered, multistorey gateways exemplified at Madurai, Thanjavur and Mamallapuram. At the opposite end of the spectrum, the palm-lined beaches of Goa and Kerala, with their golden sands and azure waters, beckon the weary traveller for some much needed respite.

BACKWATERS

The languid pace of Kerala's backwaters and a glimpse into its village life can be enjoyed on leisurely houseboat rides. And lest you forget you are still in that great land of festivals and celebrations, depending upon the time of the year, you are never far away from a great elephant march or a snake boat race.

AYURVEDA

Ayurveda is the ancient Hindu system of medicine practiced on naturalistic and holistic principles to achieve a harmonious balance of the body, mind and soul. Ayurvedic massages, using aromatic and medicinal oils to relax the nervous system, have been practised in Kerala for centuries.

PERIYAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Created in 1895, this scenic sanctuary of densely forested terrain in the Cardomom Hills in Kerala is one of India's 27 tiger reserves, but the tigers are rarely seen. However, its lake (which offers boat trips) attracts thousands of birds, and sightings of elephants, wild boar, sambar and bison are frequent.

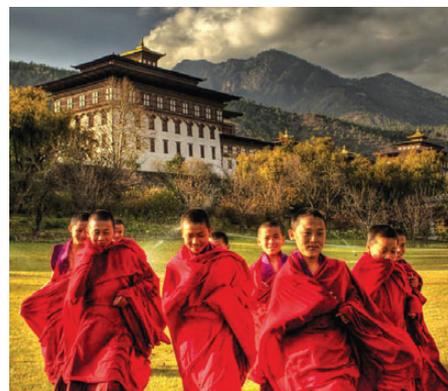
SOUTH INDIA

Best time to travel: October to March • Best value time: April to September
 Country capital: New Delhi • Currency: Indian Rupees • Time difference: GMT + 5½ hours
 Visa: Valid visa required (E-Tourist Visa available for several nationalities)

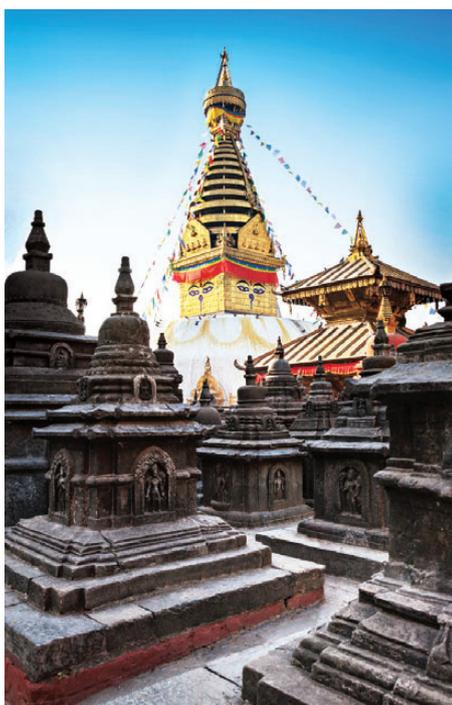
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temp °C	29	31	33	35	38	38	36	35	34	32	29	29
Temp F	84	88	91	95	101	101	97	95	93	90	84	84
Rain (mm)	36	10	8	15	25	48	91	117	119	305	356	140

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A&K in Nepal and Bhutan



NEPAL

The Himalayan kingdom of Nepal, bordered by China in the north and India in the south, is a land of sublime natural beauty, ancient Buddhist monasteries and Hindu shrines, of smiling sherpas and woolly yaks. The Nepalese Himalayas contain eight of the world's ten highest peaks, including the highest point in the world, Mt Everest, making it easily the mountain lover's ultimate destination. Pokhara in the north is the trekker's gateway to the breathtaking Annapurna range where winding mountain paths link picturesque rural villages with yak pastures, making for some of the most beautiful walking trails on earth. Besides trekking, this country offers a host of thrilling adventure sports including rafting, kayaking and mountain biking. However, the lure of Nepal is not just adrenaline and adventure, but also its arresting cultural wealth revealed in its palaces, Buddhist stupas and monasteries, Hindu shrines and pilgrimage spots. The capital city of Kathmandu is home to a remarkable collection of the country's finest traditional architecture including two UNESCO heritage sites – the Durbar Square and Swayambhunath temple.

BHUTAN

Gracing the eastern edge of the Himalayas, the fabled Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan, is nestled between India and China. For centuries it has remained isolated from the world and has only recently begun to open its doors to outsiders - slowly and cautiously. Bhutan's Himalayan landscape is dramatic and pristine, the traditional Buddhist culture fascinating. Visitors will be treated to beautiful treks along snowcapped mountains that are carpeted with forests and tumble down to flower-filled valleys, a rich bio-diversity that includes unique birds and mammals carefully nurtured in several national parks and unique Buddhist architecture typified by dzongs and monasteries everywhere. Amazing annual festivals – tsechus and dromchoes – and beautiful textiles and handicrafts breathe life into the country's vibrant traditions. Thimphu, the capital, is the only world capital without traffic lights. Whatever you do and wherever you go, you will be mesmerised by a country and people whose love and respect for their faith and their land is all encompassing.

NEPAL

Best time to travel: October to April • Best value time: May to September

Capital city: Kathmandu • Currency: Nepalese Rupees

Time difference: GMT + 5³/₄ hours

Visa: Valid visa required (Visa could be obtained on arrival)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temp °C	8	9	12	15	17	18	19	19	18	16	12	9
Temp F	47	48	54	59	63	65	66	66	65	61	54	41
Rain (mm)	15	48	64	99	107	119	130	117	102	53	18	5

BHUTAN

Best time to travel: October to April (except December & January)

Best value time: May to September • Capital city: Thimpu • Currency: Ngultrum

Time difference: GMT + 6 hours

Visa: Valid visa required (No provision for Visa on arrival)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temp °C	10	12	16	20	23	24	25	24	23	20	15	11
Temp F	50	54	61	68	74	75	77	75	74	68	59	52
Rain (mm)	15	41	23	58	122	246	373	345	155	38	8	3

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INDIA, NEPAL AND BHUTAN



A&K Incentives, Conferences & Events

Meticulous planning, creative expertise and flawless execution are the hallmarks of A&K's event management abilities. A highly skilled and experienced team of consultants complemented by a superb infrastructure network works towards designing impeccable conferences, summits, and events, tailor-made to clients' specific needs.

INCENTIVES MANAGEMENT

Among our repertoire of services is the specialised Incentives Division. India is a destination that offers unparalleled variety. Whether you are looking for activity and adventure, luxury and relaxation, or sight-seeing and culture you are spoilt for choice on the most lavish or tightest of budgets. A&K's team recognises that clients want to experience this

enchanting country according to their own budget, pace and interests and accordingly creates detailed incentive itineraries with in-depth destination consultancy and itemised costing. The additions such as special receptions, theme dinners, team building activities are all part of the Incentives services from A&K.

CONFERENCE MANAGEMENT

With exacting standards and a highly dedicated team, A&K takes pride in organising flawless conferences. Starting with personalised planning assistance and leveraging deep local knowledge to help clients choose venues, accommodation, and itineraries down to offering pre/post programmes, spouses' programmes, manning help desks, providing ushering, materials' distribution and ticket confirmations – the entire

process is handled by A&K to ensure a smooth event. A&K's efforts have resulted in highly successful events in the past including the World Presidents' Organisation, The Leading Hotels of the World, Gloria Jean's Coffees conferences.

EVENT MANAGEMENT

Clients can be rest assured that once their event is placed in A&K's hands they will be delivered a highly rewarding experience. The expert management team brings a creative approach to event conceptualisation and execution as well as exclusive access to an array of superior venues and vendors. From setup to decoration and entertainment, each element is meticulously planned and coordinated to ensure a seamless and successful event.



"The attention to detail and the excellence with which your organisation and yourselves, as members of that family, have brought such great joy into the hearts of all our participants at our Abundance Global Convention. Words cannot express our sincere thanks to you and the rest of your team!"

Nabi Saleh, Australia



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INDIA, NEPAL AND BHUTAN



○ A&K office

SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

HIGHLIGHTS OF NORTH INDIA & RAJASTHAN

Encapsulating the essence of this rich and diverse land, this journey combines the historical Mughal and Imperial monuments of Delhi, lavish forts and palaces of Udaipur and Jaipur, exciting tiger safaris and the crowning jewel – the Taj Mahal.

Day 1	Delhi	Day 7	Jaipur
Day 2	Delhi	Day 8	Ranthambore
Day 3	Udaipur	Day 9	Ranthambore
Day 4	Udaipur	Day 10	Agra
Day 5	Jaipur	Day 11	Agra
Day 6	Jaipur	Day 12	Delhi

SPLENDORS OF SOUTH INDIA

A tour of beautiful South India that reveals the many wonders of this region – the exquisite temples of Chennai and Madurai, elephants of Periyar and Kerala's serene backwaters. Continue to the colonial city of Kochi and culminate the tour in cosmopolitan Mumbai.

Day 1	Chennai	Day 7	Kumarakoam
Day 2	Chennai	Day 8	Kumarakoam
Day 3	Madurai	Day 9	Kochi
Day 4	Madurai	Day 10	Mumbai
Day 5	Periyar	Day 11	Mumbai
Day 6	Kumarakoam		

KINGDOMS IN THE SKY

Cross the mighty Himalayas into the beautiful mountain kingdoms of Nepal and Bhutan. Visit Kathmandu's UNESCO World Heritage sites before continuing onto Chitwan National Park to witness the one-horned rhino. In Bhutan, gain an insight into its rich history and culture, both steeped in Buddhism.

Day 1	Delhi	Day 8	Thimphu
Day 2	Kathmandu	Day 9	Thimphu
Day 3	Kathmandu	Day 10	Punakha
Day 4	Chitwan	Day 11	Punakha
Day 5	Chitwan	Day 12	Paro
Day 6	Chitwan	Day 13	Paro
Day 7	Kathmandu	Day 14	Delhi

THE ROYAL ROUTE

Especially created to savour the opulence and grandeur of India this trip includes royal cities, magnificent palaces and monuments, vibrant art and culture, rounded off by a chance to sight India's majestic national animal, the tiger, at Kanha National Park.

Day 1	Mumbai	Day 9	Ranthambore (ME Train)
Day 2	Mumbai	Day 10	Jaipur (ME Train)
Day 3	Kanha National Park	Day 11	Jodhpur
Day 4	Kanha National Park	Day 12	Jodhpur
Day 5	Kanha National Park	Day 13	Udaipur
Day 6	Delhi	Day 14	Udaipur
Day 7	Delhi	Day 15	Delhi
Day 8	Agra (ME Train)		

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