



BROWN & HUDSON

SOUTHERN INDIA

An Escape to India

1st - 11th October 2011



Exquisitely crafted, truly bespoke travel

London, 17th January 2011

When I first discovered India I remember wondering why anyone would need to travel anywhere else in the world. This majestic sub-continent had it all. Cultural riches a go go, all the world's major religions cohabitating fairly peacefully, great wildlife and incredible natural wonders too. Added to all this, the country had a fascinating history and a phenomenally diverse culinary tradition. One might indeed wonder why they should travel elsewhere.

With this in mind, when Tamsin Lonsdale and Tehra Turnbaugh Thorp teamed up with Brown + Hudson to create a series of bespoke Supper Club Escapes, India was the logical choice for the inaugural trip.

Our joint vision was to create interesting, fun and stimulating travel experiences in which everyone's individual needs and wishes would be met. We imagined a collection of like-minded individuals travelling together in style on a series of trips of uncommon originality. To keep things truly original, our first 'Escape to India' focuses on the relatively undiscovered culture and cuisine of the Southern Indian states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

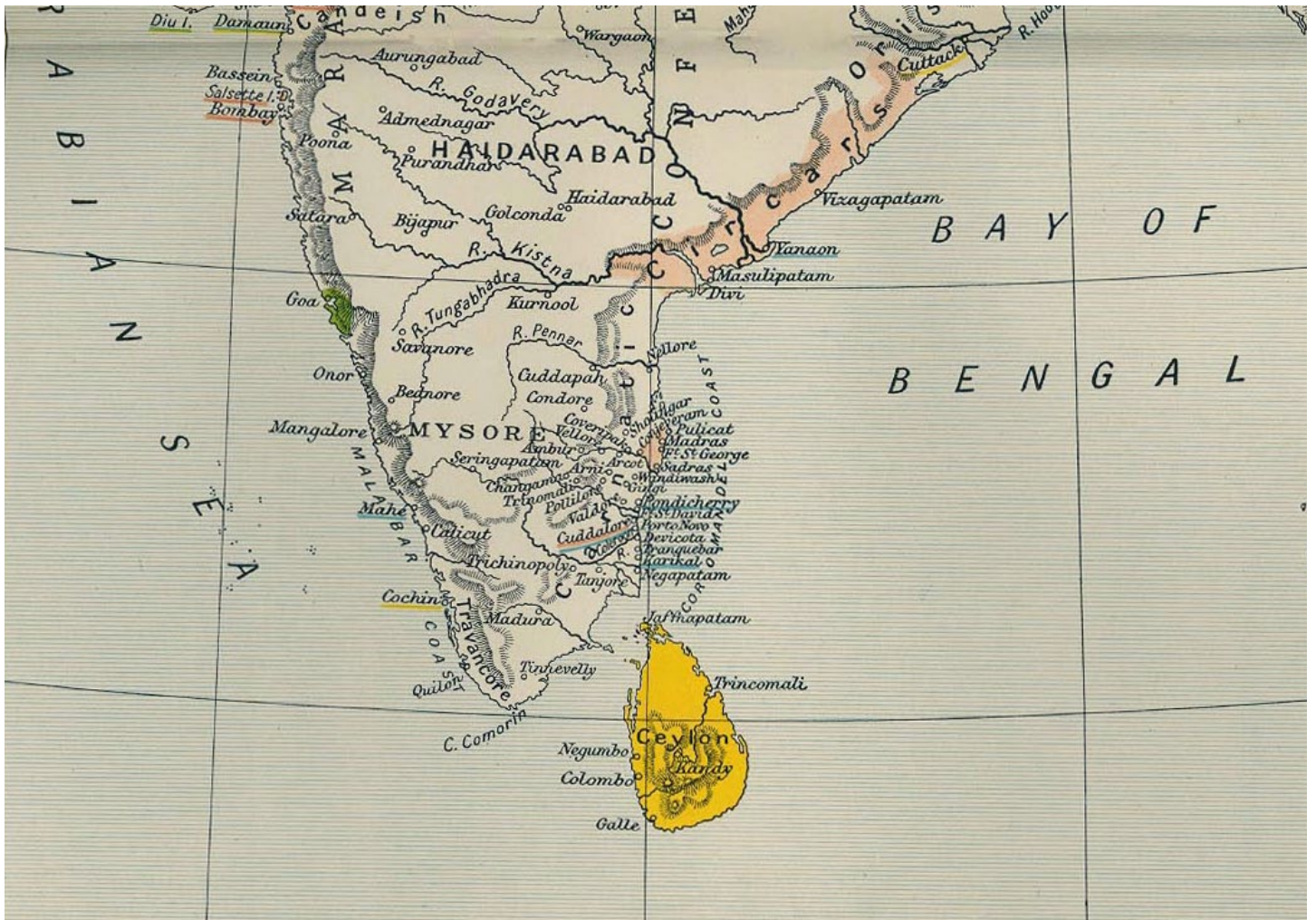
In addition to what you will read in the following pages, one of the most wonderful things about both Tamil Nadu and Kerala is that they are rather understated about their phenomenal cultural, architectural, spiritual and trade-generated riches. For gourmands these riches have contributed to the region's diverse culinary styles and creativity, which we will discover wandering along a lesser-travelled road through this Garden of Eden.

Join us for an amazing experience. The inaugural trip will be limited to just 18 travellers so do get in touch soon. We will offer a discount of \$500 USD each for Supper Club Members and their partners or friends booking prior to the 1st February 2011.

Should you have any questions at all do contact one of our team on +44 203 358 0110 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm GMT).

Best wishes.

P.S If you would like to plan a post trip to discover amazing Rajasthan or other corners of India do get in touch and it will be a pleasure to help.



FOR GOURMANDS

1st - 11th October 2011

Join us on a magnificent journey through the cultural and culinary heritage of Southern India – Tamil Nadu & Kerala. Cooking here is so much more than just basic preparation of food. It is a celebration of a rich cultural legacy, which is deeply imbued in everyone's everyday lives. Sample, taste and savour the delights of gourmet Southern India and learn about the varied culture and some surprising culinary insights.

Southern Indian cuisine is a delight. At most restaurants you will see signs of "Meals Ready". No sooner have people sat down

to eat, that a tiny tray of little cups or a fresh banana leaf is spread in front of them. Then the thrice daily celebration begins. Legions of busy waiters serve up a variety of freshly prepared rice, fresh vegetables and bean preparations, lentils, breads, yoghurt, pickles, popadoms and sauces. Each is flavoured with a different blend of spices, lime juice, coconut milk and sour mango. From region to region the serving styles vary as much as the recipes, but everywhere the ritual is a celebration.

After discovering the flavours of North Tamil Nadu, we head South to taste the renowned cuisine of Chettinad. Here dishes are spicier, consisting of cooked dhal, eggplant curry,

drumstick sambar, ghee for flavouring, rice, and sweet meats like payasam and paal paniyaram as well as seafood of course. Your journey through Tamil Nadu will leave you with images of vast coconut groves, paddy fields, temples, hearty meals, the ubiquitous colours of South India, of silk saris, shimmering classical dance costumes, roadside political posters and frangipani flowers that all radiate a life of their own.

Our journey continues through the most intriguing parts of Southern India's past - the central role that spices play in the history of the region cannot be underestimated. They were the treasure that attracted foreign mer-

chants to these shores. They also drew a crowd of less welcome visitors - Phoenician, Greek, Arab and Portuguese invaders to name but a few.

The trading of these precious commodities between Kerala and the world goes back to the third millennium B.C and has shaped much of the area's history. Kerala's tryst with these aromatics remains as strong as ever and its delectable cuisine is linked in all its richness to the history, geography, demography, and culture of the land. The hills of Kerala produce such an aromatic bouquet - pepper, cloves, cardamom, nutmeg, cinnamon - all of which are added to the traditional recipes handed down from grandmothers to mothers and daughters.

Spices also explain why the geographically diminutive Kerala enjoys such prominence within India: 80% of the country's production is sourced here. Needless to say, Keralites celebrate this aspect of their economy and culture within their kitchens: indeed any local chef worth his salt could use 20 or more distinct flavourings in the preparation of one dish. While this diversity may seem a little daunting at first, Tehra, assisted by a cast of local chefs and family cooks, will help us uncover the tricks of Keralan cuisine.

Away from the kitchen, for those seeking greater thrills, we organise walks, mountain bike rides, fishing and photography expeditions. Conversely, for anyone seeking fewer, rest assured there will also be plenty of opportunities to relax, enjoy ayurvedic treatments, indulge in sumptuous spa facilities, and take in the boundless beauty of this, God's own country.





THE THINKING BEHIND YOUR ITINERARY

For your stay in each location we have selected the most respected and unique properties, each chosen to reflect the diversity of their locale and for the comfort they offer. We shall begin with three nights at the sumptuously restored heritage Taj Connemara in Chennai - the ideal place to ease us into the rhythm of our journey and gifted with some incredible UNESCO World Heritage sites not to be missed nearby.

From there we'll head to Visalam, a fine turn of the century Chettiar trader's mansion, to learn a little more about Chettinad and the region's grand culture and history. Moving on, Spice Village Periyar is a considered and aptly named Eco-Lodge, home to vast plantations of teak, cardamom, tea, rubber and coffee. Home also to an astonishing biodiversity found in some fine wildlife sanctuaries.

Coconut Lagoon Resort on the banks of the breathtaking Lake Vembanad will be our home for two nights. In Cochin we'll bring our trip to a close with two nights at the historic Brunton Boatyard, perfectly located in Cochin's old town.

Each of the aforementioned properties displays the very essence of what the region has to offer. Each also offers its own sense of luxury and unique style.

With regard to activities, we have taken great care to ensure there is a healthy balance between cultural and nature explorations, and cooking classes. Put simply, we created the perfect mix of ingredients for you to relax and enjoy the places in which we'll stay. Do bear in mind that the heat of Kerala means that at mid-day things tend to slow down, and that to maximise comfort and enjoyment it is important that we take the time to slow down too. Rest assured that most days you will spend the right amount of time in the kitchen, learning about Indian cuisine and practising the techniques that have been passed down through generations of talented local chefs.

We'll also visit local food and produce markets, and noteworthy historical and architectural sites. Furthermore, to really bring your discovery of this magical country to life we've included some infor-

mal lectures and events with some of our local friends and experts. These encounters will really bring to life your understanding and appreciation of Southern Indian society.

And beyond that, both in the planning and in the execution of the trip, we make it our business to ensure that you have time to relax and the freedom to enjoy the experience at your own pace. Our guides will offer you a maximum of flexibility and spontaneity throughout your trip. They'll help you juggle the options, plan your time, and balance the culinary and cultural events with all the other possibilities, such as shopping, relaxation, pool, spa and massage time. And they will be on hand every step of the way to offer you all the help and advice you might need with an attitude and experience second to none.





TEHRA TURNBAUGH THORP

“I learned to cook out of necessity because my mother hates to cook. It was, I think, an act of rebellion that I became a chef.”

Tehra Turnbaugh Thorp grew up on a sustainable farm in Oklahoma enjoying all that the land had to offer. She has lived in Aspen and London but now calls Los Angeles her home. Having attended Le Cordon Bleu she has cooked all over the world through her cuisine and travels. She came to specialise in Moroccan cuisine after one of her family trips to a Moroccan restaurant in Washington DC and has cooked many tajine-inspired feasts since.

Tehra has cooked for numerous celebrities and famous (some infamous) guests but none have made her quite as nervous as Jamie Oliver. In her inimitable way, Tehra looked on the bright side and realised that she was lucky it wasn't Gordon Ramsay.

When Tehra is out of the kitchen her appetite for all things gastronomic is satisfied by writing on all things food-related. She also assists at Bon Appétit Magazine.

HIGHLIGHTS

AN ITINERARY EXQUISITELY CRAFTED TO SATISFY FOODIES & NON-FOODIES ALIKE.

TWO COOKING CLASSES WITH CHEF TEHRA TURNBAUGH THORP.

AN EVENING OF KATHAKALI DANCE.

CULTURAL & HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR OF COCHIN.

DAY CRUISE ON A TRADITIONAL KERALAN HOUSEBOAT.

SPICE TOUR THROUGH THE PLANTATIONS OF THE SPICE VILLAGE.

FOUR COOKING CLASSES WITH GUEST CHEFS.

LECTURE TOPICS INCLUDE AYURVEDIC HEALING, KERALAN HISTORY & CULTURE.

ONE AYURVEDIC TREATMENT FOR EVERY GUEST

THE SERVICES OF ONE EXPERIENCED BROWN + HUDSON GUIDE AND ONE
OUTSTANDING LOCAL GUIDE.

DAY ONE

Itinerary



Saturday 1st October 2011

Your flight to Chennai International Airport will no doubt have you arrive late in the evening. Upon your arrival your Brown + Hudson guides will welcome you and bring you to the Taj Connemara, your home for the next three nights. Colonially elegant and infused with design touches hinting to its imperial past; the Taj Connemara is Chennai's only heritage hotel. Modern comforts, thoughtful service, soothing views and complete privacy help make for a pleasantly memorable stay and a great start to your trip.

Chennai

The city's architecture is a confluence of many styles. Ranging from ancient Dravidian temples built by the Pallavas, and the Indo-Saracen style of the colonial era, all the way to 20th century steel and chrome of modern skyscrapers. Hidden behind vast billboards and amid in the chaos of the overflowing streets, the fascinating past of Chennai lives on in an enormous wealth of heritage buildings. Cherished by residents and admired by visitors, the stately Indo Saracen buildings form a much-loved part of the Chennai skyline.

Tamil Cuisine

As one of the oldest vegetarian culinary heritages of the world, Tamil cuisine is characterized by its aroma and flavour. Achieved mainly by a combination of spices, Tamil recipes use a variety of ingredients like coconut, ginger, coriander, tamarind, curry leaves, etc. Tamil Nadu is famous for its hospitality and its deep belief that, as in other parts of India, serving food to others is a service to humanity. Traditionally, vegetarian dishes predominate, including a variety of sweets and savouries. It's also characterized by the use of rice, legumes and lentils, and its distinct aroma and flavour is achieved by the judicious blend of spices. In fact, the word "curry" is derived from the old Tamil word 'kari', which meant "sauce".

DAY TWO

Itinerary



Sunday 2nd October 2011

To get a sense of place, we will begin our first day together with a visit of Chennai. We head first to the 7th century Kapaleeswarar Temple in Mylapore, an abode of the god Shiva and the goddess Shakthi. Located near the temple is the local vegetable market, where we'll get our first glimpse of the huge variety of local fresh vegetables that we will be cooking with. Next, we'll proceed to the San Thome Basilica, built in 16th century by Portuguese explorers. The structure was rebuilt in neo-gothic style, and it was conferred the status of a cathedral by the British in 1893. We'll also see Fort St George (historically known as White Town) and its museum which contains many relics of the Raj.

Lunch will be served at New Woodlands one of our favourite restaurants in town. Here authentic South Indian dishes are prepared following traditional family recipes that have evolved wonderfully over generations.

After some downtime at the hotel, late afternoon, we meet with the hotel's Executive Chef Samir Mulaokar for the first of our cooking classes. Together we'll discover the art of preparing traditional Tamil dishes including Uthapam, Dosa, Sambhar & various chutneys.

In the evening we'll gather for cocktails and an introduction to the trip before dinner at the hotel. Under a beautiful canopy of rain trees, the setting is a delight. The menu is equally wonderful and focuses on Chettinad cuisine, a spicy and aromatic regional specialty of the state. Signature dishes include Kuruvapillai Yera and Kozhi melagu chettinad (chicken pepper fry). Relish each dish while watching a local dance troupe perform traditional Tamil dance - just one aspect of the rich Tamil culture you are about to discover.

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Fort St George was the first British fortress in India, founded in 1639. It was the construction of the fort that provided the impetus for further settlements and trading activity for the British East India Company. Today, the Fort serves as the administrative headquarters for the legislative assembly of Tamil Nadu state, and still houses a garrison for troops in transit to various locations in South India and the Andamans.

DAY THREE

Itinerary



Monday 3rd October 2011

Starting early, today we explore the unique cultural heritage of the temple town of Kancheepuram, known as the city of 1000 temples. It is also one of the country's seven sacred cities and famed for the hand-woven sarees made there. We will also visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site Mahabalipuram, renowned for its numerous shore temples and rathas. To avoid the onset of "temple-fatigue" we will diligently prepare you for each visit with the relevant background briefing so that once there, you have the choice of either listening to our expert guide or spending your time discovering the site in your own way.

Lunch will be at The Wharf, a fine seafood restaurant located at Temple Bay, overlooking the Bay of Bengal. Try mouth-watering seafood dishes, such as grilled prawns with orange juice and Dijon, squid with coriander and mint pesto, the King Fish with barbecue rub, or the Anari Mirch Tikka (pieces of seared fish, marinated with pomegranate seed and Tandoor red masala cooked to perfection). Naturally we'll meet the executive chef, Mr. Balachandran and find out more about his mouth-watering recipes.



On the way back to Chennai we'll stop in at some 7th century temples, whose designers pioneered a revolutionary style of architecture – the Dravidian style. These are refreshingly uncluttered and tower over the waves, behind a protective breakwater. These beautiful temples, ravaged by wind and sea, are a World Heritage Site and are probably one of the most photographed monuments in India.

Mid to late afternoon we will return to Chennai. Dinner will be taken at the The Verandah whose Anglo Indian recipes have been culled from the chef's family archives. Anglo-Indian favourites like Mulligatawny Soup, Fish Moilee and Grandma's Chicken Country Captain are sure to transport diners back to the days of the Raj.

DAY FOUR

Itinerary



Tuesday 4th October 2011

After a leisurely breakfast we'll drive to the airport for our midday flight to Madurai. Upon landing we'll drive eastward to Karaikudi, the capital of the region of Chettinad. Along the way we'll take a brief break to see the Meenakshi temple whose hall of a thousand pillars is a particularly noteworthy architectural feature.

Think of palaces in India and no doubt Rajasthan springs to mind. We'd like to share a secret called Chettinad. Thanks to a glorious history and UNESCO, this part of the state of Tamil Nadu will make you think again. Chettinad can't boast the same opulence or dramatic desert settings as Rajasthan, but there is something breathtaking about the region. It consists of some 75 villages, and is the cultural home of the Chettiars, a community that dates back to the Cholas and made its fortune as money lenders, merchants and jewellery dealers. ("Muthu" is a popular name for Chettiar children – it means pearl.)

Most Chettiars migrated to Sri Lanka, Singapore, Burma, Cambodia, Vietnam and Malaysia in the 19th and 20th centuries, and sent back lavish fittings and furnishings for their ancestral homes. The houses still stand – 30,000 of them at last count – and what magnificent mansions they are – and ours, now a hotel called Visalam, is a particularly beautiful example.

We will arrive at Visalam late afternoon, and pool side or in the kitchen we'll learn about Chettinad cuisine with the great Chef Dharmalingam. He will most probably share the art of making simple yet sumptuous preparations like Coconut/Lemon rice, Kara Kuzhambu (a specialty of Chettinad), Chettinad Kozhi curry (a pepper & spices based chicken/lamb curry).

DAY FOUR continued

Itinerary



Tuesday 4th October 2011

Our hotel for two nights represents a heritage, art and architecture untouched by time. Visalam is a 72 yr old Chettinad mansion restored to its original grandeur. The exterior is a wonderful mix of art deco, Southern Indian and Colonial styles, while the interiors are designed with ethnic wooden furniture, old doors and ancient carvings. The property reflects the grandeur of the region, combined with the almost yogic simplicity of the community.

Chettinad Cuisine

Among the various Southern Indian culinary styles, Chettinad cuisine is highly prized by foodies. It is one of the spiciest and the most aromatic in India. This cuisine has several variations of fish, mutton, and chicken dishes, of which the Chettinad Pepper Chicken is the most famous. Besides hot and spicy dishes, the cuisine offers an array of vegetarian dishes. Chettinad cooks are not from any school or institute as the culinary art is simply passed on from generation to generation. They are considered experts in the preparation of a daily menu for many members of one single family which might consist of 10 -20 people living in the same house.

DAY FIVE

Itinerary



Wednesday 5th October 2011

After a leisurely breakfast we will head out for a heritage walk to learn more about Karaikudi's rich history. We'll pop into different artisans' workshops and observe the splendid architecture showcased in the many mansions each displaying the opulence of a bygone era. The unique art of making Athangudi tiles is particular to Karaikudi. These fine pieces are made of sand, local water cement and pigments to form simple but unique patterns. Also, we will visit the looms that weave the Chettinad Sari magic.

After lunch in town we will return to Visalam to enjoy some downtime or to indulge in a variety of more active alternatives. Late afternoon, Tehra will be offering the first of her classes and some of the recipes we might discover include chicken with pomegranate seeds or cumin, vegetable byriani and chilli fried lady fingers. This evening we will dine on the fruits of our cooking class labours.

DAY SIX

Itinerary



Thursday 6th October 2011

The scenery changes dramatically as we head west deeper into Kerala's spice lands to stay at the renowned eco-resort, Spice Village. The drive will take around 5 hours and we'll animate the journey with a number of interesting stops along the way.

Spice Village is set in one of the greenest corners of India, in the heart of the Cardamom Hills of Kerala, just outside Periyar Reserve. The property's location offers an opportunity to enjoy Southern India's natural beauty. This is the perfect place for nature lovers: somewhere to fill your lungs with fresh mountain air and to savour the rich fragrance of cinnamon and cloves.

As you would expect, it's also designed in total harmony with nature. Brick and log bungalows covered with the same elephant grass used for centuries in the surrounding villages, sprout from the forests as if they had always been there. Amongst the indigenous beetles, other varieties of the species, including Sir Paul McCartney, have very much enjoyed the resort. And it is clear why: the extremely comfortable but stripped back accommodation offers the perfect antidote to the complications of modern life. Sounds of the jungle replace those of television, computers and radios. Air conditioning is made redundant by the clean mountain air; its humming replaced by the wonderful aroma of the spice forests which permeate every nook and cranny of the village.

The property was built around the former home of A.W. Woods, an illiterate but incredibly gifted employee of the British Raj in the 1930s. In fact it was he who planted many of the trees in the gardens you see today. You can still enjoy Mr. Wood's veranda, as you sit sipping a Gin & Tonic marvelling at the wonderful arboretum - just as he would have all those decades ago.

DAY SIX continued

Itinerary



Thursday 6th October 2011



Today Spice Village is inextricably linked to the tribal life of the people who inhabit the surrounding hills. It is they who bring the fresh produce each day, which is organic in the truest sense of the word. And it is these ingredients that will add an immeasurable pleasure to our act of cooking. It isn't a miracle that the people of Thekkady enjoy the kind of longevity they do, for they have always eaten the most delectable and purest natural produce.

After exploring the grounds and unwinding from the journey, we'll be invited indoors for what is sure to be a very special cooking class with Tehra and our local chef. We might focus on Mopila cuisine. This is the cuisine of North Kerala influenced by the Arab Traders, the Mughal Civilization of the North of India. It is basically non-vegetarian and uses fish, poultry and lamb and a judicious melange of spices. Dinner will be served on the lawn.

DAY SEVEN

Itinerary



Friday 7th October 2011

After a fresh breakfast at our little slice of green heaven, this morning we walk out to the property's spice plantations. This visit is a must for anyone with an interest in taste, flavours and how the spices used in everyday cooking are grown, harvested and processed. The visit also gives you the background to the wonderful world of spices, their history, cultivation, medicinal values and economics.

Following lunch we drive to the headier climates of the coast and the shores of Lake Vembanad. This is one of Asia's largest water bodies and part of the enormous wetland system known as the Backwaters, separated from the Arabian sea by narrow barrier islands. It's a bit of a drive, but with the scenery and climate changing rapidly as we get closer to the coast, you will find that the time passes as quickly as the landscape.

We arrive late afternoon, in time to enjoy the wonderful facilities of the Coconut Lagoon. Hidden among the palm trees on the eastern shore of Lake Vembanad, at Kumarakom, this resort has been designed to give visitors an insight into Kuttanad life at the very heart of the backwaters. There are many facets to the Coconut Lagoon experience: the heritage of the old feudal villages of Malabar; the vast frolic of the Vembanad Lake and the shimmering waters of the canals that criss-cross the property. Together, they become an experience in ecological living that remains startlingly refreshing. The property will be our beautiful home for the next 2 nights. As night falls, we gather for cocktails and dinner.

DAY EIGHT

Itinerary



Saturday 8th October 2011

Undoubtedly the most beautiful craft on which to explore the serene Lake Vembanad is the traditional Kerala houseboat, which is why we will have one waiting for you after breakfast. The boat and crew will be ready to offer us the most comfortable and relaxing day meandering through the Backwaters.

As we cruise this area of unique scenic beauty and lush surroundings, we are reminded why this place is known as 'God's own country'. We may pass the edge of the Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary on the eastern banks of the lake, home to a wide variety of exotic birds. As villages and fields roll past, you will see a rare glimpse of local life in this area: children playing on the banks, an old church or a farmer walking home along a shaded path. We will also visit the Kuttanad region, one of the very few areas in the world where farming is practiced below sea level.

Lunch will be served on board, prepared by your boatmen who will be more than happy to share their culinary art with you in exchange for your assistance in the kitchen.

After our day on the water, the evening brings with it an introduction to the theatrical art of Kathakali. This ancient and highly sophisticated art form is unique to Kerala and plays an important part in the region's cultural heritage. Similar to western ballet, music and dance are merged to create the narrative. Many of the performances are Kerala classics while others have been added over time. Kathakali can be used to tell almost any storyline – and performances have already included references from sources as diverse as the Iliad, Shakespeare's King Lear, and Goethe's Dr. Faustus.

DAY EIGHT continued

Itinerary



Saturday 8th October 2011

A distinguishing feature of Kathakali as a theatrical form is that the actors almost never speak, but instead use facial expressions, complex, elegant hand gestures, and rhythmic body movement to communicate.

Not unlike the forms of communication used by teenagers around the world. The complex skills involved in this physical theatre make Kathakali difficult to learn: the training alone can take over 10 years. Stamina and concentration are both required and taught through the discipline of Indian martial arts.

Traditionally, scripts were written to last all night. Fortunately, nowadays abridged versions are often enacted presenting the more melodramatic or aesthetically interesting scenes rather than the whole story. Phew. Anyone can appreciate Kathakali, but we'll help facilitate your understanding by explaining the plots beforehand. And afterwards we'll head backstage to put any remaining questions you may have to the dancers themselves.

DAY NINE

Itinerary



Sunday 9th October 2011

Cochin is the final leg of our journey. Upon arrival at our last hotel, the Brunton Boatyard, we take the time to unpack and discover the restorative charms of the pool or the property's Ayurvedic spa.

For a relatively intimate hotel, The Brunton Boatyard possesses a remarkable sense of scale, evident the moment you turn into the tiled forecourt. The entrance is a vault of sunlight and air, framed by arches and overhung with punkahs - enormous, old fashioned fans of Indo-Portuguese origin. The hotel's nautical past predominates. On one wall, old Dutch maps, on the courtyard lawns, an ancient anchor. A short saunter down the corridor brings you to a small doorway and beyond it the whole vista of Cochin harbour opens up beyond the pool's inviting waters. The property is dotted fine vistas and perfect corners to escape to.

At around midday, lunch will be served in the hotel's breezy restaurant.

Restored, we'll meet our local expert guide for a short cultural and historic walking tour of Cochin. The old town is a true historian's paradise and the architecture reveals its many layered past. We might stop at the house of explorer Vasco de Gama, one of the first Portuguese to establish himself in Cochin. The Portuguese presence in Cochin stretched some 160 years and we will see plenty more evidence of their stay as we wander past the Santa Cruz Basilica and the St. Francis church. Later on our walk, Dutch influences will become more evident, as well as those of the English - India's most recent foreign colonial power.

DAY NINE continued

Itinerary



Sunday 9th October 2011

Our stroll ends at Fort Cochin beach where we'll find the vast, iconic 'Chinese' fishing nets. These huge mechanical contraptions, manned from the shore by a team of five or more fishermen, comprise a wooden support structure suspended from which is a 20 metre wide net that literally lifts fish from the water. It's an ancient technique most likely imported from China, and Cochin is the only place outside China where these nets are still in use.

The end of the afternoon might involve some downtime by the pool or perhaps indulging in a treatment at the spa. Early evening we visit the home of Nimmy Paul, the doyenne of Kerala cuisine and our last guest chef. We will be welcomed to her home for a unique and unforgettable cooking class. Nimmy is celebrated not just for her culinary expertise, but also her distinctive style, and her fun and personable manner. Of course, for those less keen to don an apron, a Brown + Hudson guide will be on hand to propose an alternative activity.

As the sun sets we'll enjoy drinks and look forward to a dinner that will be a combination of those dishes so expertly prepared by the class, complemented by some of Nimmy's other recipes.

DAY TEN

Itinerary



Monday 10th October 2011

We shall gather after breakfast for our final cooking lesson with Tehra. While she will have prepared a menu for the class, this is also the perfect time to discuss any remaining questions or ideas about the skills you've developed.

Afterwards, the day is very much at yours to enjoy the sun, the views, the pool and the fantastic spa at the hotel or to head over to the market for some last-minute shopping. We shall not say much about our final evening together but rest assured that in true Brown + Hudson style it's likely to be truly memorable.

DAY ELEVEN

Itinerary



Tuesday 11th October 2011

This morning we shall say our goodbyes.

If you are interested in extending your stay or organising a post trip to Rajasthan (or elsewhere in this magnificent subcontinent) do let us know and we will be happy to help.

YOUR HOTELS



TAJ CONNEMARA, CHENNAI

1 - 3RD OCTOBER 2011

tajhotels.com

Tel. : +91 44 6600 0000 vivanta.connemara@tajhotels.com



VISALAM, KANADUKATHAN

4, 5TH OCTOBER 2011

cgearth.com/visalam

Tel. : +91 45 6527 3301 info@cgearth.com

YOUR HOTELS



SPICE VILLAGE, THEKKADY

6TH OCTOBER 2011

cghearth.com/spice_village

Tel. : +91 48 6930 2501 info@cgearth.com



COCONUT LAGOON, KUMARAKOM

7, 8TH OCTOBER 2011

cghearth.com/coconut_lagoon

Tel. : +91 48 1252 4373 info@cgearth.com

YOUR HOTELS



BRUNTON BOATYARD, COCHIN

9, 10TH OCTOBER 2011

cghearth.com/brunton_boatyard

Tel. : +91 48 4221 5463 info@cgearth.com

COSTS, INCLUSIONS, PAYMENT DETAILS



START AND FINISH

Start of the trip: Meet at Chennai Airport on Saturday 1st October 2011

Drop-off: Brunton Boatyard, Cochin on Tuesday 11th October 2011

Duration: 11 days / 10 nights

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- All hotel accommodations in standard category rooms.
- All breakfasts served in the hotel restaurant, all lunches and dinners.
- One internal flight Chennai to Madurai in Economy Class.
- All cooking classes.
- One Ayurvedic massage treatment
- One Brown + Hudson guide and one English-speaking local guide.
- A/C private 18-seater bus for longer transfers.
- Complimentary snacks, drinks & mineral water.
- All events, private tours, guest experts and entries to sites in the itinerary.
- Transportation from rendezvous to drop-off for all events described in our itinerary.
- Access to Brown + Hudson library of regional reading material and DVDs on India.
- Detailed regional maps.
- Gratuities for baggage, porters, meals, drivers, housekeeping and hotel service.
- Tourist Tax at each hotel.
- Trip Information provided by electronic means.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

- Coffee and tea with all meals and alcoholic beverages with meals.
- All spa and massage treatments (except for the one included ayurvedic treatment), room extras and cocktails.
- Airport transfers for anyone not arriving at the pre-arranged times & other transfers unrelated to the itinerary, facilitated by Brown + Hudson guides at the request of a guest.
- All events described as “options” or “optional” in this itinerary.
- Laundry services at any hotels.
- Discretionary gratuities for local and Brown + Hudson guide.
- Pretrip travel planning and advice. Please consult your usual travel professional.

COSTS, INCLUSIONS, PAYMENT DETAILS

TRIP PRICE

USD \$ 9,400 per person (based on a party of sixteen people on double occupancy basis)

USD \$ 1,800 Single Supplement

We will offer a discount of \$500 USD to Supper Club members, their partners, friends or families booking prior to the 1st February 2011.

If two same-gender travellers travelling alone are amenable to sharing a twin room to avoid a single supplement, we will endeavour to facilitate this arrangement by matching them with another similarly minded single traveller.

INSURANCE

You are strongly urged to purchase travel insurance covering all eventualities (including coverage for cancellation), transportation, luggage, medical care, and activities for this journey. We recommend TRAVEL GUARD®'s comprehensive Platinum travel insurance policy. If you would be interested in this coverage please call us.

PAYMENT DETAILS

Once we have received your reservation request, we will advise you of the required deposit to confirm this booking. Please use the following bank details for all payments:

Beneficiary Bank	Arbuthnot Latham & Co. Ltd. Private Bankers
Beneficiary Bank SWIFT Code	ARBUGB2L
Beneficiary Bank Sort Code	30-13-93
Beneficiary Bank Account Number	11660901
Beneficiary Name	Brown + Hudson Expeditions Ltd.
Beneficiary IBAN	GB24ARBU30139311660901

Reference to be noted:

[Your name] and SCT3Cul India 1 - 11 Oct 2011

If requested by your bank

Correspondent Bank	Deutsche Bankers Trust Co Americas, New York
Swift Code	BKTR US 33
ABA/FW No	021001033

Please provide your bank with all the above details, specify that payments be made in \$ USD only and that the sums received are exactly those specified. Sender pays all wire transfer fees.

NEXT STEPS

1. Please call our travel advisor team on +44 203 358 0110 if you have any questions about the trip (Monday to Friday, 09h00 - 17h00 GMT).
2. Please complete the attached Reservation Request and return it to us at info@brownandhudson.com or by fax to +44 203 0700 600 prior to the **28th February 2011**.
3. We will confirm your reservation back to you and indicate the amount of your trip deposit and the cost of our optional Trip Cancellation and Medical insurance policy underwritten by Travel Guard.
4. To confirm your participation, prior to the **28th February 2011**, we will ask you to have:
 - Made your 30% trip deposit or full payment. (The funds must have cleared to our account).
 - Paid your insurance premium in full (if you choose to take out insurance).
 - Returned our Liability Release.
 - Returned the completed travel insurance waiver.
5. Participants are asked to make final payments by wire transfer in \$ USD prior to the **14th April 2011**.

RESERVATION REQUEST

An Escape to India 1st – 11th October 2011

1

PERSONAL CONTACT DETAILS

Please print clearly and complete one form per person.

First name _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Town/City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Mobile _____

If we need to contact you by phone, when do you prefer to be contacted?

Morning Afternoon Evening Anytime

At which phone number?

2

PASSPORT DETAILS

Please print clearly with details exactly as per passport.

Date of birth _____

Passport number _____ Passport issuing authority _____

Date passport issued _____ Passport expiration date _____

3

CREDIT CARD DETAILS

These will only be used by our hotels to guarantee any services you wish us to reserve in advance for you.

Credit Card Type: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Name as printed on the card: _____

Expiry Date: _____

CCV number/security number printed on rear of card or front for American Express: _____

RESERVATION REQUEST

An Escape to India 1st – 11th October 2011

4

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

Please print clearly

Emergency contact name _____

Relationship _____

Emergency contact phone number _____

Emergency contact mobile phone number _____

Physician's name _____

Physician's phone number _____

Have you taken out your own personal trip cancellation insurance (Please tick): Yes No
 Company _____ Telephone contact number? _____

5

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Please specify any pre-existing medical conditions or allergies _____

Are you currently taking any medication? Yes No

If yes, which _____

(Do you have enough for the duration of your trip?)

6

ROOMING PREFERENCE

(Please tick)

Double

Twin

Single

I'd like to share a Twin room with another single traveller of the same gender who would also like to share

Where possible, we will endeavour to accommodate all your preferences:

(Please number from 1 to 3. 1 being most important to you)

___ View of river or gardens

___ Surface area

___ Antiques or style

RESERVATION REQUEST

An Escape to India 1st – 11th October 2011

7

OPTIONS

(Please delete, tick or complete where appropriate)

I would / would not like to go on a leisurely optional bike ride or two during the course of my trip

I would / would not like to go on a leisurely optional walk or two during the course of my trip

I would like you to look into the following activities for me during the trip:

Massage Spa time Golf

Horseback riding Yoga

Other: _____

8

DIETARY & DINING REQUIREMENTS

Please specify any food likes, dislikes or allergies: _____

_____ None:

The Brown + Hudson vehicle will offer snacks and cool beverages during your rides and walks.

Please tick the box that most reflects the kind of contents you would like to see, or specify your own requirements.

Surprise me with your choice of drinks and snacks

Only healthy, diet focused

Local rather than global brands

I'd definitely like to see (please specify ex. M&Ms, Coke Light, Gatorade etc.)

9

Please tick this box to confirm that you have read, understood & signed our Liability Release (at the end of this itinerary) & that you have faxed it back to us

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts, they will help us to create the perfect trip for you.

Please return this questionnaire by email to info@brownandhudson.com or fax to +44 203 0700 600

THE NITTY GRITTY



WEATHER

October in Southern India sees the monsoons refresh the land and air after the unbearable heat of the summer months. It will be very warm, with temperatures hovering around the upper 20s and maybe over 30°C, humid, with some cleansing showers punctuated by sunny spells. In the hills it will be slightly cooler as will night times by the coast.

Chennai	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
T. max(C)	33	34	32	29
T. min	26	25	24	24

Cochin	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
T. max(C)	28	28	29	30
T. min	24	24	24	24

WHAT TO WEAR WHERE

Elsewhere, day-time clothing should be light and loose fitting warm weather clothing, with scope for layering in the hills and on the coast. Remember that bare skin also presents an irresistible treat for mosquitoes. Long sleeved shirts are always a safe bet. Of course a waterproof jacket is a must. Modesty in dress is an important aspect of Indian life and, away from beaches, one should respect the local customs. This is especially important when visiting temples and religious sites, where trousers or full-length skirts should be worn, shoulders should be covered, and in Sikh temples, your head must be covered.

A mixture of casual and smart casual will be appropriate wherever we are staying.

24 hour laundry service is available at most hotels.

FOOTWEAR FOR WALKING

The importance of good footwear should not be underestimated. You'll need a good, lightweight walking shoe or boot with a firm sole and good ankle support. While walking shoes are lighter and cooler, it's now easy to find a "hybrid" walking boot, which combines the lightweight, ventilated features of a shoe with the ankle support and durability of a boot. Shoes that can be slipped on and off easily are ideal as they have to be removed at all religious sites.

DAY PACKS

A small, day-sized knapsack is advisable for carrying your camera, wallet, water bottle, spare film or memory cards, binoculars, sunscreen, extra clothing and other items. Make sure your bag is big enough to fit the necessities in, but also that it is small enough so that it is comfortable to have with you all day.

THE NITTY GRITTY

MEALS

We have included all breakfasts. For either lunches or dinners we have aimed to offer as much a la carte dining as possible. Wherever we have opted for limited or fixed choice menus, it was either because the property could not offer a la carte or because choosing for a la carte would have resulted in interminably long service.

TABLE MANNERS

In India eating with your hand (instead of utensils like forks and spoons) is very common. There's one basic rule of etiquette to observe, particularly in non-urban India: Use only your right hand. Don't stick either hand into communal serving dishes: instead, serve yourself with utensils and then dig in. Needless to say, it's wise to wash your hands well before and after eating.

For breads, the basic technique is to hold down the item with your forefinger and use your middle-finger and thumb to tear off pieces. The pieces can then be dipped in sauce or used to pick up bits before you stuff them in your mouth. Rice is more challenging, but the basic idea is to use four fingers to mix the rice in curry and pack a little ball, before you pop it in your mouth by pushing it with your thumb. Eating by hand is frowned on the more elegant properties, which is mainly where we shall be dining.

It is not necessary to taste each and every dish prepared; but you should finish everything on the plate as it is considered a respect for food served, and food is God. For this reason, take only as much food on the plate as you can finish.

If this sounds overwhelming then don't worry, your guides are experts in this field. Dining is of deep cultural importance in India but it is also regarded as a relaxed social occasion to be enjoyed!

CURRENCY AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The Indian Rupee cannot be purchased outside India. Traveller's cheques in US dollars or sterling are widely accepted and safer than carrying cash. You can exchange cash and travellers cheques at the airport, banks and at most of the larger hotels.

Bank hours are 10h00 - 14h00. Remember to keep your money exchange forms as proof and obtain plenty of small denomination notes such as ten and twenty rupee notes for tips. It is advisable to carry some rupees in cash when travelling to remote areas, as credit cards and travellers cheques may not be accepted. ATMs are available in the larger towns and cities.

THE NITTY GRITTY

Please ensure your card is valid during your period of travel and it is advisable to notify your card provider you are going to be out of the country to ensure they allow your foreign transactions.

TIPS ON TIPPING

In restaurants, the tip to waiters is around 10-15 percent of the bill. In cases of restaurants of prestigious hotels, generally a 10 percent service surcharge is added to the bill. In smaller places, the tip is not a percentage of the bill. Rather, a few rupees are given depending on the quality of service.

We have included tips for baggage, porters, housekeeping, restaurant and hotel service so you don't need to worry about it. However if you feel you have experienced a particularly excellent service, extra gratitude will not go amiss. Please note the gratuities for your Brown + Hudson and local guides are left to your own discretion.

TOUTS, BEGGARS AND PICKPOCKETS

The way to deal with touts in India is to simply ignore them – try to look occupied with something else – and they are more likely to ignore you. If that does not work, a more firm approach – 'No thank you' – should do. As for beggars, this comes with the experience. It will take time to adjust, but generally speaking the best approach to philanthropy is via charities. Children can be cute but also rather persistent. They will ask for sweets or pens or 'one rupee' – a laugh and a firm-but-gentle 'No' will do.

When in crowded bazaars, at railway stations and at major tourist sights, as anywhere else in the world, be aware of your possessions, particularly wallets, handbags and cameras.



SUN PROTECTION

Sunglasses, a sun hat and a good sun block are essential. Be sure to bring an adequate supply, as it might be difficult or impossible to find exactly what you want in the areas we'll be visiting.

MEDICAL ITEMS

A travel health kit is recommended. If there are medical items that are essential to you, such as prescription drugs, personal hygiene supplies, or corrective eye wear, bring a second set and divide them between your checked and carry-on luggage. You should also bring a supply of contact lens solution if you use it. Finally, please do remember to carry appropriate health and immunization records.

THE NITTY GRITTY

VACCINATIONS AND HEALTH CONCERNS

In a different climate, with foreign food and different levels of sanitation, there is always a risk of contracting an illness. Brown + Hudson highly recommend that you consult your doctor or a travel clinic before you embark on your journey. They can provide you with the latest information on immunizations required for your particular destination, and the potential risks you will be exposed to while travelling.

India is a malarial zone, so again consult with your doctor about antimalarials. Dengue fever, though rare, is also present. We recommend taking measures against mosquitoes to prevent bites, such as long clothing (ankles are the most vulnerable) and repellent.

Everyone wants to avoid the infamous Delhi Belly and by observing a few sensible precautions, this can be achieved. Generally speaking, food in four and five star hotels is safe. You can eat meat provided you are sure it is fresh and well cooked. Your instincts are usually right in this respect. Drink only bottled water from a reliable source and use it when brushing your teeth – almost all hotels provide bottled water in your room. If you do become unwell, the hotels have excellent doctors who have plenty of experience in dealing with upset stomachs.

If you would like to find out more about health requirements in the regions you are visiting, the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention is an excellent source for information. Please visit their website at www.cdc.gov and select Travellers' Health on the homepage, which will lead you to the relevant chapters.



POWER SOCKETS

The power supply runs 240v/50hz. The official plugs are predominantly the Type D and occasional Type M. Plug adapters are widely available and, while most hotels will have adapters for their guests, it may be worthwhile to pick one up before commencing the trip, especially if you will be recharging several gadgets at once.

COMMUNICATION

Mobile network coverage throughout India is good and you will be able to use your mobile-phone in some rural areas, if you have international roaming. Emails and internet access are available in most hotels, but like phone calls, they can be expensive.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The photographic opportunities in India are immense. The scenery and architecture are superb, and you will wish to capture the colourful local people, their animals, houses and shops etc. Please be respectful when taking photos and ask permission of people before taking their picture. Photography in religious institutions is generally not permitted. Outdoor photography is usually permitted when visiting such places, but please check with your guide before taking any photographs. At most major monuments, you have to pay a camera fee of between 50 and 200 rupees.

THE NITTY GRITTY

If you have a digital camera, you can buy more memory cards easily in the larger towns. Also, bring spare batteries, as these are unlikely to be available locally. Recharging batteries should not be a problem, but a back-up battery pack will prevent any disappointments.

LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

For domestic flights in India the checked luggage restrictions for economy passengers is a maximum total weight of 25kg (44 lbs).

Hand luggage must not exceed 20×40×55 cm (8×16×22 inches) and should be less than 8 kilograms (about 18 lbs) in total. Any items that exceed these criteria are treated as checked luggage.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

You are responsible for ensuring your passports are in order and acquiring the necessary visa for India.

CARRYING VALUABLES

Please leave your valuable belongings, including jewellery, at home. Brown + Hudson cannot take responsibility for the safety of your personal belongings. Everywhere in the world, no matter how safe, tourists are amongst the most easily targeted for theft. If you want to bring your valuables, make sure they are covered by your personal insurance policy. Be sure to check your coverage for India. Brown + Hudson's liability for loss of belongings during transport in a Brown + Hudson vehicle is limited to a maximum of US\$500 per person. It is also limited to a maximum of US\$150 for the loss of any one item or set of items. Consult your travel insurance policy for their coverage of valuable items.

Brown + Hudson assumes no responsibility for personal belongings in your possession or left in a hotel room. Additionally, hotels will generally not compensate their guests for theft from the hotel premises. That is why we strongly urge you to leave valuables at home, and to review your personal insurance policy to make sure you are adequately covered for the belongings you do plan to take with you.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

You are strongly urged to purchase travel insurance covering all eventualities (including coverage for cancellation), transportation, luggage, medical care, and activities for this journey. Please ensure that you have adequate travel insurance quoted and paid for prior to any trip payments. We recommend TRAVEL GUARD®'s comprehensive Platinum travel insurance policy. If you would be interested in this coverage please call us.

THE NITTY GRITTY



LOGISTICS

Our aim with any trip is to help clients dig into the fabric of the society and communities we visit. We have planned cultural and historical visits as well as down to earth encounters and cooking classes to achieve this goal.

We don't really deal in "group tours" so in addition we have allowed time for you to discover many of the delights that Southern India has to offer in your own way and according to your own schedule. Your Brown + Hudson guides are flexible, service-focused and experienced enough to help you discover all the region has to offer in the way that suits you best. Typically, each evening over cocktails or after dinner we will give you a briefing about what has been planned for the following day, timings for any organised events, lunch options and alternatives. This is also the perfect opportunity for your guides to find out how you wish to tailor your day.

Depending on the final party size, we will offer support using one or two vans and one or two incredibly flexible and experienced guides equipped with local knowledge, wit and an excellent sense of service. Within the framework of this itinerary, the trip is about your vacation, your needs and wishes. Your guides will be happy to adapt your day to enhance your experience. Naturally, they will also advise you of any additional costs not covered by the original trip price required to accommodate your wishes.

READING LIST



We have developed the following eclectic booklist for your trip to India. These titles are available by mail order from our partners at The Travel Bookshop www.thetravelbookshop.com

Travel Guides

DORLING KINDERSLEY GUIDE TO INDIA

Recommended because of the historical information and the quality of the illustrations. The book is also very useful when looking at monuments and palaces. Dorling Kindersley also publishes a guide to Rajasthan, Delhi and Agra which is more specific.

History of India

INDIA: A HISTORY BY JOHN KEAY

A long-view narrative of India's history from 3000 B.C. to the Indian-Pakistani conflicts of the 1990s. A good general history, which is useful for dipping into.

INDIA'S UNENDING JOURNEY BY MARK TULLY

Mark Tully grew up in India and this book is his take on what India has to teach us about democracy, education, poverty relief, environmental issues and economic growth. The author is a frequent contributor to TV and radio and he writes in a very accessible way.

BEING INDIAN: INSIDE THE REAL INDIA BY PAVAN VARMA

This famous Indian writer, diplomat and commentator delves into the myths, contradictions, misconceptions and realities of the country. Not uncontroversial when it was published, it is a perceptive primer on the complexities of the modern state.

READING LIST

INDIA AFTER GANDHI: THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRACY BY RAMACHANDRA GUHA

A cross between a history and biography of post-independence India, looking in particular at the lives and political impact of Nehru and Indira Gandhi.

RAJ: THE MAKING AND UNMAKING OF BRITISH INDIA BY LAWRENCE JAMES

This is a new look by one of Britain's most talented historians at the subject of the British in India. The Spectator called it "Outstanding....An intelligible introduction to a grand subject."

EMPIRES OF THE INDUS: THE STORY OF A RIVER BY ALICE ALBINIA

Following the Indus River upstream and back in time, Albinia takes the reader on a voyage through 2,000 miles of geography and more than 5,000 years of history.

CURRY: A TALE OF COOKS AND CONQUERORS BY LIZZIE CUNNINGHAM

A lovely history of India through the development of its food. It's great fun and very informative.

Culinary

CLASSIC INDIAN COOKING BY JULIE SAHNI

This extraordinary cookbook, *Classic Indian Cooking*, amounts to a complete course in Indian cuisine. Elucidated by over 100 line drawings, it systematically introduces the properties of all the basic spices and special ingredients of Indian food, then explains the techniques employed in using them, always with the help of comparisons to familiar Western methods.

A TASTE OF MADRAS: A SOUTH INDIAN COOKBOOK BY RANI KINGMAN

Kingman spent her early years in the state of Madras, now called Tamil Nadu. She offers illuminating descriptions of the influences of cultural and religious traditions on food and how ingredients are mixed together to produce balance. One favorite southern Indian dish that often appears on menus, masala dosai, consists of pancakes stuffed with a potato and vegetable filling.

FOOD CULTURE IN INDIA BY COLLEEN TAYLOR SEN

By perhaps the most interesting contemporary writer on Indian food, Colleen Taylor Sen, is a font of interesting culinary knowledge and a great writer to boot. To quote from the *Chicago Tribune*, is 'not a cookbook but an invaluable source of the "why" of Indian cooking. Sen does an admirable job sketching out the history of India and its myriad food cultures. She manages to remain clear and accessible while trying not to overlook any one region, ethnicity or economic class.'

READING LIST

EATING INDIA: EXPLORING THE FOOD AND CULTURE OF THE LAND OF SPICES BY CHITRITA BANERJI

A thrilling journey through a national food formed by generations of arrivals, assimilations and conquests. In her mouth-watering prose, she explores how each wave of newcomers – ancient Aryan tribes, Persians, Middle Eastern Jews, Mongols, Arabs, Europeans – brought innovating new ways to combine the country's rich native spices, poppy seeds, saffron and mustard to the vegetables, fish, grains and pulses that are the staples of the Indian kitchen.

A HISTORICAL DICTIONARY OF INDIAN FOOD BY K. T. ACHAYA

A masterpiece by the father of Indian food writing. In A-Z format it offers a huge amount of information on the food, the food culture, recipes, and cuisine of India. It covers areas such as history, literature, botany, genetics, and archaeology and places Indian food in time and context. This is a fascinating, meticulously researched book that you'll find yourself dipping into again and again. A must for any Indian food lover!

Fiction

A PASSAGE TO INDIA BY E.M. FORSTER

The classic fictional account of East meeting West and all of the cultural misunderstandings involved. The novel is a historical journey when British imperialism in India was present and reflects how life was like within the Raj period.

KIM BY RUDYARD KIPLING

An epic rendition of the imperial experience in India seen through the eyes of a young English boy growing up with a dual Anglo-Indian identity.

SIX SUSPECTS BY VIKAS SWARUP

By the author of Q&A (Filmed as Slumdog Millionaire). It tells the story of six people who are all suspects of a murder. As the story develops and we learn more about each character and their relationships with each other, the identity of the murder is slowly revealed.

MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN BY SALMAN RUSHDIE

A magical story which begins on the night India gains its independence from Britain. The main character of the book, Saleem Sinai is born on the stroke of midnight August 15 1947 and has telepathic powers which connects him with 1,000 other 'midnight's children'. Saleem's biography is a whirlwind of disasters and triumphs that mirrors the course of modern India.

THE WHITE TIGER BY ARAVIND ADIGA

Winner of the 2008 Booker Prize for Fiction, this novel tells the story of Balram Halwai, a diminutive, overweight ex-teashop worker who now earns his living as a chauffeur. But this is only one side of his protean personality; he deals in confidence scams, over-ambitious business promotions (built on the shakiest of foundations) and enjoys approaching life with a philosophical turn of mind. But is Balram also a murderer?

THE TRAVEL BOOKSHOP

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BROWN + HUDSON

Release of liability and assumption of all risks

I acknowledge that I am voluntarily participating in this trip with the knowledge that there are inherent risks involved including but not limited to: injury or death, negligence on the part of Brown + Hudson; negligence on the part of any of Brown + Hudson's agents, associates, suppliers or others; negligence on my part; physical exertion for which I am not prepared; forces of nature, civil unrest, acts of terrorism; criminal activity, force majeure, transportation unavailability or failures whether by plane, train, auto, boat, bicycle, horseback or other animal, or other conveyance, or by foot or other form of active or adventure travel; consumption of alcoholic beverages; risks associated with food or impure water; breakdown of equipment; high altitude; inclement weather; lack of or limited access to medical attention; inadequacy of medical attention once provided; lost, stolen or misplaced luggage or any other property. I recognize that such risks may be present before, during and after the trip in which I am participating under the arrangements made by Brown + Hudson and its agents and associates. I hereby accept all the responsibilities for my own safety and welfare notwithstanding the inherent risks involved.

I acknowledge that in exchange for payment of the cost of the trip I have selected and by executing this Release of Liability and Assumption of All Risks, I am allowed to participate in such trip. Therefore, as lawful consideration for the right to participate in the trip, I hereby fully assume responsibility for my own welfare and accept any and all risks associated with the trip of delay, inconvenience, unanticipated events, mental or physical illness or injury, or death and do hereby release and discharge Brown + Hudson and its employees, associates, guides and agents from and against all liability, actions, claims, and demands for any damages resulting from my participation in the trip. I hereby release Brown + Hudson from any and all liabilities arising from my participation in the trip I have selected to the maximum extent of the law. I agree further that this Release and the obligations therein shall be legally binding upon me personally, all members of my family including all minors travelling with me, my heirs and the heirs of all minors travelling with me, successors, assigns and legal representatives. It is my intention to assume fully all the risks associated with this trip and to release Brown + Hudson from any and all liabilities.

I understand that trip cancellation, medical, and general travel insurance are available to me through separate insurance agencies and that Brown + Hudson strongly recommends that I purchase this coverage.

I understand that Brown + Hudson reserves the right to deny participation to any person deemed unsuitable or unfit to participate in a Brown + Hudson program or to ask a traveller to leave the trip if it determines that the participant's continued participation would prove detrimental to the individual or is not compatible with the well-being and enjoyment of the other travellers. I understand that Brown + Hudson reserves the right to take photographic or film records of any of its trips, and I hereby agree that Brown + Hudson may use such records for promotional or commercial purposes.

I understand that this Agreement and all matters relative to my participation in the Brown + Hudson trip will be interpreted according to the laws of the United Kingdom. Jurisdiction over any dispute arising out of this Agreement shall be exclusively in the courts of the United Kingdom. If any court determines that any portion of this Agreement is null and void, the remaining portions of the Agreement shall remain valid, enforceable and binding on all parties.

I acknowledge that I have read carefully Brown + Hudson's general information including its policy on cancelled trips, refunds, and insurance and agree to all stated conditions set forth in any Brown + Hudson published materials. I have read carefully this Agreement and understand fully its contents. I understand and accept that this is a contract between myself and Brown + Hudson and/or its affiliated agencies, suppliers, associations and organizations and I sign it of my own free will and in its entirety. I agree that signatures exchanged by facsimile or email shall be binding as originals.

Printed Name

Trip name and date **An Escape to India 1st - 11th October 2011**

Signature

Date

PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM PER PERSON AND RETURN
EITHER BY EMAIL TO info@brownandhudson.com
OR FAX TO +44 203 0700 600

TERMS

STANDARD TERMS & CONDITIONS OF BUSINESS

All bookings are made with Brown + Hudson Expeditions Ltd., a registered company in England and Wales with company number 06357172 and registered office at 27 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3BL, England, United Kingdom (UK) (referred to in these terms and conditions as "Brown + Hudson"). Your contract will be either with Brown + Hudson or with another supplier of travel services and this will depend on the type of arrangements you book. Your contract will be with Brown + Hudson if it arranges at least two or more of the following services where the services are taken together and where they either cover a period of more than 24 hours or include overnight accommodation: (a) transportation; (b) accommodation; and (c) other tourist services not ancillary to transportation or accommodation which account for a significant part of the arrangements. For all other arrangements, Brown + Hudson is the Booking Agent for the supplier. In this event, your contract will be with the supplier (or suppliers) and Brown + Hudson accepts no responsibility for the suppliers' actions or omissions. Copies of the conditions of your contract with your supplier are available on request from us, and Brown + Hudson recommends that you ask for them and read them before you book so that you are aware of how they may affect your booking.

1. RESERVATION

1.1.1 On your enquiry, Brown + Hudson establishes where and when you wish to travel, and if we are satisfied that this is basically feasible, we will send you a Trip Planning Agreement (TPA) to sign, and you will pay us a nonrefundable Trip Planning Deposit (TPD) of £1,000. This TPD covers the cost of researching your bespoke trip and this contract with the terms and conditions contained herein will apply. 1.1.2 We will then create a Trip Planning Questionnaire (TPQ), which you are required to complete and return to us within 30 days in order that we can create your bespoke trip. Alternatively, the TPQ may be completed with one of our consultants on the telephone or in person. In such event, the details of the conversation will be confirmed to you in writing by Brown + Hudson shortly after the discussion. If you fail to return the completed TPQ or have the discussion to complete the TPQ by phone or in person within 30 days, we will assume you do not wish to use our services; your TPD will be forfeited and we will close our file on your bespoke trip. 1.1.3 Upon return of the TPQ, we will prepare an itinerary for your consideration and present it to you within seven to 21 days depending on the complexity of your trip. Once the itinerary has been agreed, you will be invoiced for a portion of the full cost, usually 30% but this will vary at our discretion and depending on the nature of the trip, particularly when aircraft or yacht charters are involved. You are required to pay the remaining 70% of the trip's cost at least three months prior to its commencement. 1.2 Brown + Hudson reserves the right to refuse to accept a reservation at any stage of the process until the invoice has been paid in full. Our trips entail risks – and rewards – beyond those encountered at home. We always stress that our trips are a partnership with travellers. Our primary objective is to take the hassle out of a great travel experience. In return, we count on people to ensure they are healthy and fit; to prepare themselves by reading about clothing, training, medical requirements and culture-specific etiquette; to appreciate that in some countries, local living standards, practices, services and accommodations may differ from those in North America or Europe (often in delightful ways); and to understand – indeed relish – the fact that a road less travelled means a more unpredictable and more rewarding adventure.

2. PAYMENTS

2.1 All payments to Brown + Hudson are to be made by telegraphic transfer directly into the bank account of Brown + Hudson, as follows: **STERLING PAYMENTS** Beneficiary Bank: Arbutnot Latham & Co., Ltd. Beneficiary Bank Sort Code: 30-13-93 Swift Code: ARBUGB2L Beneficiary Name: Brown + Hudson Expeditions Ltd. Beneficiary Account Number: 11660901 IBAN: GB24ARBU50139311660901 **EURO PAYMENTS** Correspondent Bank: Dresdner Bank, Frankfurt | Swift Code: DRESDEFF | Beneficiary Bank Name: Arbutnot Latham & Co., Ltd. | Beneficiary Bank Swift Code: ARBUGB2L | Beneficiary Bank Account No: 805084311 | Beneficiary Name: Brown + Hudson Expeditions Ltd. | Beneficiary IBAN: GB51ARBU30030811660903 **US DOLLAR PAYMENTS** Correspondent Bank: Deutsche Bankers Trust Co. Americas, New York | Swift Code: BKTR US 33 ABA/FW No: 021001033 | Beneficiary Bank Name: Arbutnot Latham & Co., Ltd. Beneficiary Bank | Swift Code: ARBUGB2L | Beneficiary Bank Account No: 04164563 | Beneficiary Name: Brown + Hudson Expeditions Ltd. | Beneficiary Account No: 11660902 | Bank: Arbutnot Latham | Arbutnot House, 20 Ropemaker Street, London EC2Y 9AR, United Kingdom | Personal Banker Contact Details: Dana Bocker, Tel. +44 207 012 2557 | In the name of Brown + Hudson Expeditions Ltd. 2.2 An initial payment of usually 30% of the full price is payable at the time of booking (see 1.1.3 above). 2.3 The remainder of the price payable to Brown + Hudson is to be paid three months prior to the commencement of the bespoke trip and/or service. 2.4 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, if the bespoke trip is to commence in less than three months, the full price shall be payable immediately. 2.5 If any payment remains unpaid after seven days past the due date of the payment, Brown + Hudson reserves the right to cancel your booking without notice. You will be liable for any costs incurred.

3. PRICES

3.1 Unless stipulated by Brown + Hudson, all prices will be in the currency of the country where the service will be rendered for the traveller (in euros within the Eurozone, in sterling within the UK and generally in US dollars elsewhere). 3.2 Brown + Hudson reserves the right to impose surcharges in respect of cost increases incurred during the creation of your bespoke trip. These may include but are not limited to increases related to fuel, airport costs/taxes, currency fluctuations, increases levied by suppliers used for your bespoke trip or any part thereof or government action (both UK and foreign). If the increase is in excess of 10% of the total cost, you can withdraw from the bespoke trip and Brown + Hudson will give you a full refund of all money paid to the company less an administrative charge of £500 excluding the cost of the TPD paid. However, you must advise Brown + Hudson in writing within 10 days of receiving the increased invoice in order to cancel your bespoke trip. 3.3 No refunds will be given if currency rates improve. 3.4 Value Added Tax will be included in the price wherever applicable.

4. AMENDMENT

4.1 If Brown + Hudson is your Booking Agent, your contract with your suppliers may allow the supplier to change the booking details. Where this occurs, Brown + Hudson will ensure that you are promptly notified of any significant changes (for example, to airline flight times and routes) but will accept no liability for the changes or costs which may result. 4.2 Brown + Hudson obviously aims to run the bespoke trip as created. However, occasionally it may be necessary to amend part of the bespoke trip slightly. No refund will be made. 4.3 If Brown + Hudson is unable to offer a significant aspect of the bespoke trip, you will be offered a refund or alternative which Brown + Hudson, at its sole discretion, deems suitable.

5. CANCELLATION BY BROWN + HUDSON OR ITS SUPPLIER

5.1 Brown + Hudson reserves the right to cancel a bespoke trip or any part thereof. In this unlikely event, you will receive a refund of all invoices paid to Brown + Hudson less any losses incurred by Brown + Hudson. 5.2 No refund will be issued if Brown + Hudson is forced to cancel, or make significant changes to, the bespoke trip due to circumstances out of its control. These circumstances include but are not limited to acts of god, fire, explosion, adverse weather conditions, flood, earthquake, terrorism, riot, civil commotion, war, hostilities, strikes, riots or civil disturbances or acts of government and any acts which lead the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office to advise travellers against nonessential travel to your destination.

6. CHANGES BY YOU

6.1 If after our invoice has been issued, you wish to change your bespoke trip in any way (for example, your chosen departure date), Brown + Hudson will do its utmost to make your changes but this may not always be possible. Any request for changes must be made in writing 6.2 You may be asked to pay an administration charge of £100 for each person whose travel arrangements are changed, along with any further costs we incur in making this alteration.

7. CANCELLATION BY YOU

7.1 If you wish to cancel a bespoke trip or leave/return early, Brown + Hudson will endeavour to do what it can to help you make any necessary arrangements. However, all payments are nonrefundable, and any additional costs incurred by Brown + Hudson occasioned hereby shall be your liability. 7.2 Please note that if the reason for your cancellation is covered under the terms of your insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

8. INSURANCE

8.1 Comprehensive insurance is compulsory for all persons booking on a Brown + Hudson bespoke trip. You must ensure that your insurance is valid for the duration of your bespoke trip. 8.2 Your insurance policy must be comprehensive and include sufficient cover, especially regarding cancellation, curtailment, theft, accident, repatriation, medical, third party, liability for injury to others and death, and loss or damage to equipment. 8.3 You must produce proof of insurance if required by Brown + Hudson. 8.4 You should secure your insurance cover at the earliest opportunity to ensure you are covered and in any event prior to departure or within 14 days of payment of the full invoice, whichever date is earlier. 8.5 If you live in North America, ask us whether we have travel insurance facilities that may be suitable for you.

9. YOUR BEHAVIOUR AND RESPONSIBILITIES

9.1 You are expected to behave decently and with consideration to Brown + Hudson, any suppliers and fellow travellers.

9.2 You must comply with rules and regulations set by accommodation providers and all other suppliers from time to time.

9.3 Brown + Hudson does not accept responsibility and is not liable for any negligent acts or defaults of any supplier or any other person should you suffer any injury as a result of or in connection with skiing or snowboarding off-piste, hiking other than on level walking paths or bicycle riding. 9.4 You are responsible for looking after the accommodation where you stay during your bespoke trip. You may have to pay Brown + Hudson a damage deposit on rental property; this deposit will be returned to you after completion of the bespoke trip, provided no damage has occurred in the accommodation. If damage has been inflicted on the rented accommodation, all clients who occupied that property are responsible for costs incurred to rectify the damage caused. 9.5 Brown + Hudson reserves the right to remove any traveller or travellers from all or part of the bespoke trip if Brown + Hudson feels they are behaving in an unacceptable manner. Brown + Hudson will not be responsible for repatriation or any costs incurred, and no refund will be given as the result of being removed from the trip or part thereof. 9.6 All of your property is your own responsibility. You may be able to make a claim if the loss suffered is covered under the terms of your insurance policy.

10. MEDICAL

10.1 You are responsible for telling Brown + Hudson of any medical condition that could have an effect on your performance on the trip and of any pre-existing medical problems/conditions. If your medical condition should change during the course of the trip, you must keep Brown + Hudson informed. 10.2 Any medical information you submit to Brown + Hudson will be held in the strictest confidence and Brown + Hudson will abide by all of its obligations under the Data Protection Act and associated legislation.

11. DOCUMENTATION

11.1 You are responsible for obtaining all required travel documentation. You must obtain any required visas and have a passport that is valid for at least six months from the date that you enter all foreign countries. It is also your responsibility to ensure that these documents are in good order and that you have them with you when necessary. 11.2 Brown + Hudson is not responsible for any costs incurred due to your not having the correct documentation when required.

12. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

12.1 You are responsible for checking in for all flights and other travel arrangements in good time and with the correct documentation. Brown + Hudson will not be responsible for any costs incurred by your failure to be there on time or with the required documents.

13. OTHER SUPPLIERS

13.1 Some aspects of Brown + Hudson's bespoke trips may be run by third-party suppliers. These include but are not limited to accommodation, biking, walking, horseback riding, rafting, kayaking, canoeing, paragliding, ski and snowboard tuition, transfers, avalanche awareness courses, first aid courses, off-piste skiing and snowboarding, gliding, and helicopter and other aircraft flights or charters. These aspects may be dependent on factors outside Brown + Hudson's control, such as weather, and if they do not run for any reason, no refund will be given. 13.2 You must acknowledge that many of the activities offered are inherently risky. Brown + Hudson does not accept responsibility and is not liable for any negligent acts or defaults of any supplier or any other person, company or corporation not directly under its control. 13.3 Some suppliers may request that you sign a release of liability. If you refuse to sign, you will be excluded from that activity and no refund will be issued.

14. BROWN + HUDSON'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

14.1 Brown + Hudson accepts no responsibility for the actions or omissions of suppliers when it acts as your Booking Agent, and in such cases the rest of this clause 14 does not apply. 14.2 Although Brown + Hudson takes all reasonable precautions to prevent accidents or injury, you acknowledge and agree that some of the activities on the trip in which you participate do have a risk of accident and serious injury. Therefore, you will not take any unreasonable risks, and if you do, then you are responsible for your own actions. 14.3 Brown + Hudson will make all reasonable checks that guides and instructors have the appropriate qualifications. 14.4 Brown + Hudson will be under no liability at all if you suffer loss, death or personal injury where there has been no fault on the part of Brown + Hudson or its own employees. 14.5 Brown + Hudson accepts responsibility for death, injury or illness caused by the negligent acts and/or omissions of its employees or agents and its suppliers whilst acting within the scope of, or in the course of, their employment in the provision of your travel arrangements. Brown + Hudson will accordingly pay to you such damages as might be awarded in such circumstances under English law. 14.6 The amount of compensation to which you are entitled will be limited in accordance with and/or in an identical manner to: 14.6.1 The contractual terms of the companies that provide the transportation for your travel arrangements. These terms are incorporated into this contract; and 14.6.2 Any relevant international convention, for example, the Montreal Convention in respect of travel by air, the Athens Convention in respect of travel by sea, the Berne Convention in respect of travel by rail and the Paris Convention in respect of the provision of accommodation, which limit the amount of compensation that you can claim for death, injury, delay to passengers and loss, damage and delay to luggage. Brown + Hudson is to be regarded as having all benefit of any limitation of compensation contained in these or any other conventions. 14.7 Brown + Hudson does not accept responsibility for unusual and unforeseen circumstances beyond our control where the consequences could not have been avoided even if all due care had been exercised or could not have been foreseen or forestalled.

15. CURRENCY REFUNDS

15.1 All refunds made by Brown + Hudson may be made in the currency originally used to make the relevant payment.

16. COMFORT & RISKS

16.1 As already highlighted in these terms and conditions, whilst we believe our trips provide benefits and rewards, they also entail risks. Therefore, while we try to see that you have a great trouble-free experience, you will be aware that local living standards, practices, travel conditions, facilities, safety standards, services and accommodation differ and may be of a lower standard and less comfortable than you are used to. We hope this makes for a more authentic and rewarding adventure.

17. COMPLAINTS

17.1 Any complaints or suggestions about your trip should be made to Brown + Hudson at Milk Studios, 34 Southern Row, London W10 5AN, England, United Kingdom, and every effort will be made to reach an amicable solution. 17.2 If an amicable solution cannot be agreed, you may send your complaint or suggestion in writing, within 28 days of the end of your bespoke trip, to Brown + Hudson.

18. LAW AND JURISDICTION

18.1 These terms and conditions and all disputes arising out of or in relation to the contract entered into between Brown + Hudson and you will be interpreted in accordance with and governed by the laws of England and Wales. 18.2 In entering into a contract with Brown + Hudson you accept that any dispute arising from such contract will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English courts.

BROWN  HUDSON

FOLLOW US.

Europe, Middle East, South America,
Asia, Africa, Australasia

Antarctica, Argentina, Australia, Bhutan, Bolivia, Borneo, Botswana, Cambodia, Chile & Easter Island,
China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Galapagos Islands, Greenland, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Java & Bali,
Jordan, Kenya, Laos, Lebanon, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand,
Oman, Papua New Guinea, Patagonia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka
Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, United Kingdom, Vietnam, Zambia