

MUST-SEE SIGHTS CAN BE THE HIGHLIGHT OF A HOLIDAY,
BUT IT'S OFTEN THE UNEXPECTED MOMENTS THAT STAY
WITH YOU FOR A LIFETIME. HEAD TO ASIA FOR GUARANTEED
ALTERNATIVE ADVENTURES

amazing ASIA

Animal Magic

Venture into the dense forests and grass plains of Chitwan National Park in the Terai region of Nepal and wildlife encounters will come thick and fast. Keep your eyes peeled on a game safari for sightings of elephants and wild boar. If you're lucky you may even spot an endangered one-horned rhino or a Bengal tiger regally roaming in the foothills. Home to the ethnic Tharu people, Chitwan also offers plenty of human interaction in the traditional villages. And it's connecting with the locals that will turn your trip into a truly transformational experience.



The elephants at the Elephant Nature Park in Chiang Mai are a happy herd to behold. Discover how the vulnerable animals are rescued and get the chance to see them up close. The playful pachyderms are never happier than at feeding time, or when they are being pampered with a blissful bath!



India's wild tiger numbers are on the rise

Little beats spotting an elusive tiger in India's wild, and things are changing at a rapid pace for this species; not least because a new report issued on International Tiger Day (held on 29th July) shows that the country's tiger population has surged by a roaring amount. According to latest statistics released by the Status of Tigers in India, there are now 2,967 Bengal tigers in the country compared to 2,226 in 2014.

The 33% increase has delighted fans of the big cat, especially India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, who described the figures as an "historic achievement". It also means that the country is on-track to honour its promise in the 2010

St Petersburg Declaration to double its tiger population by 2022. And it's an encouraging sign for tiger campaigners, too, with many hailing this success story as a well-deserved triumph for the endangered species.

However, the issues of encroachment, illegal poaching and habitat destruction remain - sadly, evergreen and deciduous forests, mangrove swamps and grass jungles have virtually disappeared outside of the country's almost 50 wildlife reserves set up since the 1970s. Currently, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka rank the highest in terms of tiger populations, but experts say there's enough space for 10,000 to 15,000 tigers countrywide.

TAKE ME THERE

India's Tiger Trail

13 days from **£2999**

Departing Jan to Nov 2020

Ref: SLTT

Food For Thought

Asia is a treat for foodies and the cuisine lies at the heart of most cultures on the continent, with unusual ingredients and intense flavours to try, whether at a cookery class in Thailand or snacking on fried crickets in Phnom Penh. A trip to Vietnam will serve you tasty grub at the KOTO Restaurant in Hanoi. This not-for-profit enterprise provides training to disadvantaged young people and is a journey through the rich aromas and flavours of Vietnamese and South-East Asian food.



Newari Feast

We recommend you attend a Newari feast and discover the cuisine of the Newa people of Nepal. The meal begins with servings of baji (beaten rice) which you eat with your hands. You'll then enjoy more than a dozen dishes, often generously flavoured with spices and herbs.



War and Peace

Asia offers strikingly different historical influences wherever you go. To learn about the recent troubled times of Cambodia, head to the infamous Killing Fields of Choeung Ek to see the mass grave of almost 9,000 victims of the Khmer Rouge. Many of those buried here were inmates at the S-21 Prison, and the former detention centre in Phnom Penh is now the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum. Take a poignant journey through rooms of haunting artefacts and you'll get the chance to meet one of the survivors of the murderous regime. Stroll streets lined with restaurants in Ho Chi Minh City and you may suddenly be assaulted by the sight of military hardware outside the War Remnants Museum. Follow the half million visitors who look inside every year and you'll be moved by the history of the Vietnam War in a succession of rooms. Harrowing photos of the My Lai Massacre will bring tears to your eyes, but there is an antidote to the horror on a floor dedicated to the anti-war movement which will fill you with hope.



TAKE ME THERE

Colours of Nepal

12 days from **£2899**

Departing Nov 2019 to Dec 2020

Ref: SLNE

Discover Vietnam

13 days from **£2799**

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Ref: SLVN

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Ref: SLCL

Thailand: A Land of Smiles

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