



## The Akorn Advantage

The Akorn DMC difference can be seen in everything we do, from creative and personalized itineraries, to expert ground operations, and the very best guides. Our global commitment to quality control procedures means we check that suppliers deliver exactly as promised, and hotels meet stringent health and safety standards. In case of emergency, our DMCs have unbeatable corporate indemnity insurance.

**Brand Protection:** Akorn guarantees complete brand protection throughout all operations, using Akorn branding on the ground or operating as a 'white-label' brand using our partners' logos and signage.

**Destination Knowledge:** Akorn's in-depth understanding of the countries where we operate and access to unusual places – from privately owned art collections to meetings with local dignitaries - guarantees our itineraries will be distinctive and unique.

**More than 50 years of experience:** Extensive ground operating experience with more than 50 offices worldwide.

**Guides:** All our guides are handpicked and only those of very high calibre are selected.

**Quality Control:** The Akorn quality procedures backing any operation, ensure the fine detailing that defines an Akorn Travel Experience.

**Great Value:** Akorn's superior buying power and relationships with the best local suppliers offer a unique combination of value and excellence.

**Safety:** Tried and tested emergency procedures facilitate immediate assistance and/or repatriation, in the event of a medical emergency or major disaster.

**Corporate Indemnity:** Our substantial liability insurance coverage for all clients traveling with Akorn guarantees their security and peace of mind.

**Customised Tours:** Akorn specialises in tailoring original itineraries for special interest groups.

**Brand Moments:** These are surprise events or experiences delivered to our guests that reaffirm what Akorn stands for.

**Insider Access:** At Akorn we have long-standing local relationships and reputation to grant our guests true 'Insider access' – those special occasions that make the difference between a holiday and an experience.

## Akorn in North India

Northern India is the richest in heritage sights and cultural variety offering a rich experience of majestic mountains, forests, deserts, royal cities, palaces, wildlife sanctuaries and ancient monuments. Setting out from Delhi, visitors can continue to Agra, the city of the Taj Mahal. Westward are the vast deserts of Rajasthan and the princely State's royal heritage. The temple sculptures of Khajuraho and the holy city of Varanasi lie eastward.

### Principal Attractions

**Forts & Palaces - Rajasthan:** Discover ancient palaces, forts and temples which spotlight a blend of Hindu, Jain and Islamic traditions. Rajasthan is considered to be the real residence of the legendary Maharajas and their grand homes filled with glorious treasures of art craftsmanship.

**Taj Mahal:** Built by Emperor Shah Jahan, in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, the Taj is considered to be the world's most elaborate monument of love.

**National Parks:** North India offers a wide variety of wildlife parks, sanctuaries and reserves. Ranthambore, Kanha, Bandhavgarh & Pench are some of the places a nature lover can visit.

**Pushkar Fair:** This quiet desert town transforms into a colourful extravaganza for one week for the camel fair in November. Painted and dressed-up camels are raced to attract the best buyers. The music, colours, sounds and sights of this festival are an unforgettable experience.

**Maharaja's Express:** The first pan-India luxury train, the Maharaja's Express is a reminiscent of the old days of Indian royal splendor. The train journey can be combined with a land program to create an exquisite experience.

**The Himalayas:** Quaint hill stations, trekking trails and Buddhist monasteries - there are many places which bring the mountain range and its foothills to life. Breathtaking views, exhilarating walks, white water rafting experiences, spa holidays, the choice is endless.

Best time to travel: October to March  
Best value time: April to September  
Capital city: New Delhi Currency: Indian Rupees  
Time difference: GMT + 5 1/2 hours  
Visa: Valid visa required

## Akorn in South India

The gateways of Mumbai and Chennai are essential ports of call in any southern India holiday. They are the starting points for tropical Indian travel - slower, relaxed, even more exotic than in the north. South India offers beautiful temples, beaches, ancient spa therapies, martial arts, dances and a variety of mouth-watering cuisines. Tour the four states of the South – Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu - with Akorn.

### Principal Attractions

**Temples:** The culturally rich region of South India showcases some of the most remarkable temple architecture in India. Discover India's great cultural treasures, including the distinctive southern temples at Madurai, Thanjavur and Mamallapuram.

**Beaches:** Goa and Kerala are popular for their sun kissed sandy beaches and easy-going lifestyle, and make for an ideal beach destination or extension to a fuller Indian travel itinerary.

**Backwaters:** Cruise on the Kerala backwater in a traditional houseboat. Great elephant marches, snake boat races, multi-hued painted faces of Kathakali dancers... Akorn serves up the essence of Kerala.

**Ayurveda:** Ayurveda is the ancient Hindu system of holistic medicine. This form of therapy, using aromatic and medicinal oils to tone up the nervous system, has been practiced in Kerala for centuries. Guests can enjoy rejuvenating therapies at many Ayurvedic spas in Kerala.

**Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary:** Travellers can look forward to catching a glimpse of herds of wild elephants as they bathe in the Periyar Lake. Jungle trails offer many opportunities to explore the natural beauty of the rain forest.

**Forts & Palaces - Hyderabad:** The 400 year old city of Hyderabad is a fascinating place to visit - elaborate palaces, grand architecture and intriguing monuments, including the Qutub Shahi tombs, Chowmahalla Palace and Golconda Fort, and is the gateway to the ancient sites of the Deccan era.

Best time to travel: October to March  
Best value time: April to September  
Capital city: New Delhi Currency: Indian Rupees  
Time difference: GMT + 5 1/2 hours  
Visa: Valid visa required

## Akorn in Nepal & Bhutan

The Kingdom of Nepal is a land of sublime scenery, temples and some of the best trekking trails. With more than 1500 peaks over 5,000m, Nepal has more high mountains than anywhere else on earth.

**Kathmandu:** The country's capital city showcases history and modernity with its fascinating Hindu and Buddhist temples, casinos and shops.

**Pokhara:** It is the starting point for many popular trekking and rafting destinations. Pokhara boasts forests, rivers, lakes and world famous views of the Himalayas.

**Chitwan National Park:** Chitwan is one of Asia's finest and richest wildlife sanctuaries, and was granted the status of a 'World Heritage Site' in 1984. The park is home to a plethora of wildlife including a staggering number of bird species.

Best time to travel: October to March  
Best value time: May to September  
Capital city: Kathmandu Currency: Nepalese Rupees  
Time difference: GMT + 5 3/4 hours  
Visa: Valid visa required (Visa could be obtained on arrival)

With a sophisticated and well preserved culture, Bhutan has a draw like few others. Passionate about their cultural history, the Bhutanese measure 'gross national happiness' to help policy making.

**Thimphu:** Bhutan's capital and largest town, Thimphu boasts an atmosphere that is relaxing and friendly. By wandering around the streets, you can begin to appreciate the Bhutanese way of life.

**Paro:** Paro is a picturesque town with an impressive dzong and interesting national museum. Nearby is Bhutan's most famous site, Taktsang, or Tiger's Nest Monastery.

**Phobjikha Valley:** Phobjikha is a glacial valley and a conservation area that plays host to a flock of endangered black-necked cranes.

Best time to travel: October to March  
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)







## Akorn India

Akorn Destination Management is a division of Abercrombie & Kent, the prestigious tour operating company. Akorn is the most comprehensive network of DMCs offering seamless ground operations for quality-conscious tour operators and travel agents. Established in 1985, the India office offers a full range of travel services - from planning of itineraries to ground operations, including bespoke travel arrangements with a high level of service. We craft unique, experiential and innovative programs.

**Regional Network:** Our offices in Delhi, Agra, Bharatpur & Jaipur and network of offices pan India ensure streamlined efficiency. Our expertise and operations goes beyond India as we also make travel arrangements in Bhutan, Nepal & Maldives.

**Account Managers:** Our expert multilingual staff are dedicated to specific market segments and specialisation. They have first-hand experience of the destination and will take great pride in working with you to design the perfect holiday.

**24-Hour Turnaround:** All requests are answered within 24 hours, with fully detailed proposals sent within 72 hours.

**Guides & Escorts:** Our escorts & guides are 'handpicked' – they are not only highly knowledgeable in Indian history and culture but also have the experience of handling the most discerning travellers with utmost ease.

**Transport Division:** Akorn India has its own fleet of modern cars and coaches – all equipped to international safety standards. Our smart team of Airport Representatives are on standby 24 hours a day to guarantee fast and efficient meet-and-greet services and hotel transfers.

**Special Interest Itineraries:** Rely on our privileged access to gain an insider's perspective on the destination. Our access to the most exclusive personalities and experts in museums, photography, wildlife, gastronomy, philanthropy, etc. ensures that you get a blissful, immersive experience.

**Sales & Marketing Support:** Akorn offices in the US and the UK assist with the creation and costing of tour programs, destination training and brochure planning.

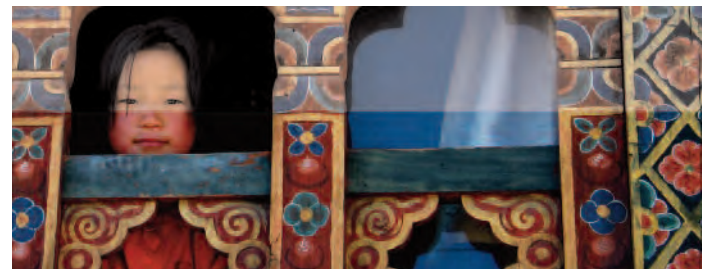
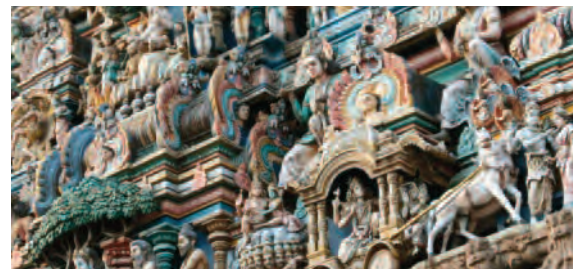
**Quality Control:** Our dedicated Quality Control Department ensures that all services, products and arrangements are continually monitored to provide the highest standards of efficiency and attentive service.

## India, Bhutan & Nepal

India with its kaleidoscope of faiths and peoples is an intricate tapestry of contrasts that make it consistently colourful and full of character. Nepal offers unique geographical conditions that range from the sub-tropical grasslands to snow-capped mountains. Bhutan's landscapes are unspoiled and its traditional cultures fascinating. Experience the ribald laughter and colour of *tschus* (festivals) in Bhutan and the welcome and generosity of its peoples.

	NORTH INDIA (°C) (°F) (R)				SOUTH INDIA (°C) (°F) (R)			NEPAL (°C) (°F) (R)			BHUTAN (°C) (°F) (R)		
Jan	21	70	23		29	84	36	8	47	15	10	50	15
Feb	24	75	18		31	88	10	9	48	48	12	54	41
Mar	31	88	13		33	91	8	12	54	64	16	61	23
Apr	36	97	8		35	95	15	15	59	99	20	68	58
May	41	106	13		38	101	25	17	63	107	23	74	112
Jun	39	102	74		38	101	48	18	65	119	24	75	246
Jul	36	97	180		36	97	91	19	66	130	25	77	373
Aug	34	93	173		35	95	117	19	66	117	24	75	345
Sep	34	93	10		34	93	119	18	65	102	23	74	155
Oct	34	93	10		32	90	305	16	61	53	20	68	38
Nov	29	84	3		29	84	356	12	54	18	15	59	8
Dec	23	73	10		29	84	140	9	41	5	11	52	3

Key: C= Average Temperature in degree Celcius  
F= Average Temperature in degree Fahrenheit, R= Rainfall in mm



## Sample Itineraries

### Passage to India – Traveling aboard the Maharaja's Express train

Day 1 Delhi  
Day 2 Delhi  
Day 3 Agra  
Day 4 Ranthambore National Park  
Day 5 Jaipur  
Day 6 Jodhpur  
Day 7 Jodhpur  
Day 8 Udaipur  
Day 9 Udaipur  
Day 10 Mumbai  
Day 11 Mumbai

(Note: Day 3 to 5 guests will travel on the ME train. Train has fixed days of operation)

### Kingdoms in the Sky – Bhutan & Nepal

Day 1 Thimphu  
Day 2 Thimphu  
Day 3 Punakha  
Day 4 Punakha  
Day 5 Paro  
Day 6 Paro  
Day 7 Kathmandu  
Day 8 Kathmandu  
Day 9 Kathmandu

### Celestial India

Day 1 Delhi  
Day 2 Delhi  
Day 3 Amritsar  
Day 4 Amritsar  
Day 5 Varanasi  
Day 6 Varanasi  
Day 7 Jaipur  
Day 8 Jaipur  
Day 9 Agra  
Day 10 Delhi

### Southern Splendours

Day 1 Chennai  
Day 2 Chennai  
Day 3 Tanjore  
Day 4 Tanjore  
Day 5 Madurai  
Day 6 Periyar  
Day 7 Kumarakom  
Day 8 Kumarakom  
Day 9 Kochi



## India

### Akorn India

Suite # 506, 5th floor, Copia Corporate Suites, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110 025, India

Tel: 91 11 46001777; Fax: 91 11 46001710/46001711

Email: india@akorndmc.com

[www.akorndmc.com](http://www.akorndmc.com)