

Indian steam tour - Christmas/New Year 2020/2021

Dec. 18 Fri. London/Delhi AI112 21:30/11:20*

Dec 19 Sat. ...Transfer to hotel. Afternoon visit to Railway Museum (which opens daily except Mondays). Overnight in Delhi.

Dec 20 Sun. Transfer to Gahri Harsaru (27kms from Delhi) for a run with WP7200 to Farrukhnagar, (12kms) and return. Its regular departure time was 09:30 but ours will presumably be a charter, and assuming that the loco. faces west, this is a trip best taken late morning/afternoon. Continue by train to Rewari, for visit to locomotive depot where a number of historic Indian locomotives are based and serviced.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=litHCqvVeDE

Return to Delhi (18:02/19:35 to Delhi Sarai Rohilla for dinner and overnight.

Dec 21 Mon. Depart New Delhi 07:40 for Kalka arr. 11:45. Connect into "Himalayan Queen" departing Kalka 12:10 for Shimla arr. 17:30. Dinner and overnight Honeymoon Inn ***, 0.6 miles from railway station.

Dec 22 Tue. Special train with KC520 Shimla - Kaithlighat and return. Dinner and overnight Shimla.

Dec 23 Wed. After early breakfast, by road to Palampur (120 miles) for special train with 2' 6" gauge "ZB" 2-6-2 No. 66, Bagnall 1952, to Baijnath Paprola (14kms) and return, with multiple run-pasts. Afterwards by road to Pathenkot Cant. for Tr. Exp 12356 departing 21:50 for Lucknow, arr. 12:25 Thu.....

Dec 24 Thu. ...and transfer to Hotel I.P Palace or similar, near to railway station, for lunch, accommodation in day rooms until departure at 17:35 by Tr. RDi 12436 to New Jalpaiguri, arr. 12:15 Friday.

Dec 25 Fri. By road to Darjeeling, for 3 nights HB at Ramada Darjeeling Gandhi Road (opposite railway station).

Dec 26 Sat. In Darjeeling

Dec 27 Sun. In Darjeeling

Dec 28 Mon. Depart Darjeeling by Tr.52540 08:00/15:10 to New Jalpaiguri (or by road if group wants more time photographing morning trains in Darjeeling; then Tr. 12346 19:25 arriving Kolkata (Calcutta) Howrah station at 05:10.

Dec 29 Tue. Transfer to hotel for breakfast, followed by the whole day exploring Calcutta, photographing its trams, marvelling at the traffic on the

Howrah bridge, and visiting the Howrah railway museum. Dinner and overnight Calcutta.

- Dec 30 Wed. Today we take Express 12703 departing Calcutta Howrah station at 07:25 for the 125kms to Kharagpur, for a journey with the Garratt to Medinipur, a distance of 22 kms or so, returning in the afternoon and transfer back to Calcutta. Because of the short distance we will try to achieve more than one return run, so that tour participants can both ride, and photograph, the train. The engine is an "N" class 4-8-0 + 0-8-4 Beyer Garratt, built 1929 at their works in Gorton, Manchester. Return to Calcutta for dinner and overnight.
- Dec 31 Thu. After a leisurely morning in Calcutta, we transfer to the airport for our flight departing 13:50 for Coimbatore arr. 18:30, and transfer the 50 miles or so to Ooty for dinner and overnight.
- Jan 1 Fri. Full day photographing and riding the "toy train" from Ooty to Coonoor and v.v. n.b. we will have to pre-book tickets for a selected journey(s) on this popular service. Dinner and overnight Ooty
- Jan 2 Sat. Another full day Ooty. Dinner and overnight.
- Jan 3 Sun. Today we travel by road to Mysore, calling in for a visit to the Mudumalai wildlife sanctuary en route - see elephants having a bath! - and on to Bangalore for dinner and overnight.
- Jan 4 Mon. Bangalore is the location of one of the oldest working steam locomotives in the world - East India Railways No. EIR21, a Kitson Well Tank 2-2-2 of 1855, and which is planned to operate on the line to Mysore (or part of it, as the whole line is 145kms long!) If indeed it is operational, we will have a charter train on the line towards Mysore, and back, before retiring to our hotel in Bangalore for dinner and overnight.
- Jan 5 Tue. BLR/BOM 12:00/14:30? and overnight in Bombay? maybe a day or two there before flying back to London? Or BLR/GOI 17:00/18:10 for a few days relaxation on the beaches of Portuguese Goa before flying back to London 06:55 GOI/BOM/BOM/LHR 13:55 with Virgin Atlantic.

20th February 2020