



# LIVE THE HIGH LIFE

ESCAPE TO THE MIGHTY HIMALAYAS FOR FESTIVALS, HOUSEBOATS AND HARDCORE CYCLING, SAYS **CAROLINE EDEN**

## METRO Travel Offer

REYKJAVIK  
CITY BREAK  
3 nights from **£239<sup>pp</sup>**

EXCLUSIVE  
OFFER

From late August to April, Reykjavik provides some of the best Northern Lights viewing conditions in the world, and this trip is sure to bring you unforgettable memories. After being picked up from your hotel in the evening and taken far from the glow of the city, you will hunt for the elusive Aurora Borealis. On a clear night, you may be lucky enough to see them swirling in a wild and carefree dance across the sky in dramatic shapes, colours, patterns and sizes.

Conveniently located in Reykjavik, Hotel Klettur is a great base from which to explore this vibrant city.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights
- Three nights' three-star bed & breakfast accommodation
- Northern Lights tour

Book now on: 0800 044 3116 quoting 'KLETTUR' or visit:  
[www.broadwaytravel.com/metro/hotel-klettur](http://www.broadwaytravel.com/metro/hotel-klettur)

### PRICES FROM

October	£319
November	£259
December	£259
January	£239
February	£259
March	£349

### BACK TO NATURE

Travel firm Naturetrek heads to the Himalayan kingdom of Ladakh this summer for its Birds And Mammals Of The Tibetan Plateau tour. Led by expert naturalists, the journey begins with a hair-raising Trans-Himalayan flight from Delhi to Leh before moving on to tiny Tibetan settlements, remote national parks and high-altitude villages.

Rajan Jolly, of Naturetrek, says: 'The cultural and ornithological highlights are immense. Look for breeding black-necked cranes, explore Hemis National Park, visit a Tibetan Buddhist monastery and enjoy an unusual safari on Bactrian camels.'

From £2,995 per person, including flights. [naturetrek.co.uk](http://naturetrek.co.uk)

### ADRIFT IN KASHMIR

In the warmer months, Kashmir – known locally as the 'Alps of India' – is awash with colourful meadows, lush emerald hills and sparkling lakes. This summer, there is another reason to go: the new Sukoon houseboat. Floating regally on Kashmir's legendary Dal Lake, it was built in 1979 and boasts an intriguing history.

Owned by environmentalist M Yusuf Chapri, the boat was inaugurated by Heinrich Harrer (author of Seven Years In Tibet)

and, in its heyday, played host to prominent mountain men, Sherpas and explorers. Today, Sukoon raises the level of houseboat accommodation in Kashmir with its glass chandeliers, cedar wood panels and stylish roof terrace. Walking safaris around Kashmir can be arranged.

Doubles from £85, including breakfast, afternoon tea and dinner. [sukoorkashmir.com](http://sukoorkashmir.com)

### PEDAL POWER

Keen to bag serious Himalayan bragging rights? Then book an adrenaline pumping, lung-busting, thigh-punishing bike ride. This summer, British-based tour operator Red Spokes is giving cyclists the chance to tackle the Indian Himalaya on its 17-day India Cycling Holiday tour, between Manali and Leh. Be warned though, this is not a tour for the faint-hearted or unfit. Labelled 'extreme', it will include many nights under canvas, travel to altitudes of 5,600m and cover 64km (40miles) most days.

After warming up in Manali, on the banks of the Beas River, the tour will pass pretty evergreen pines, orchards and waterfalls before tackling some of the world's highest passes via numerous hair-raising bends. The first of three departures this summer leaves on July 17 and costs

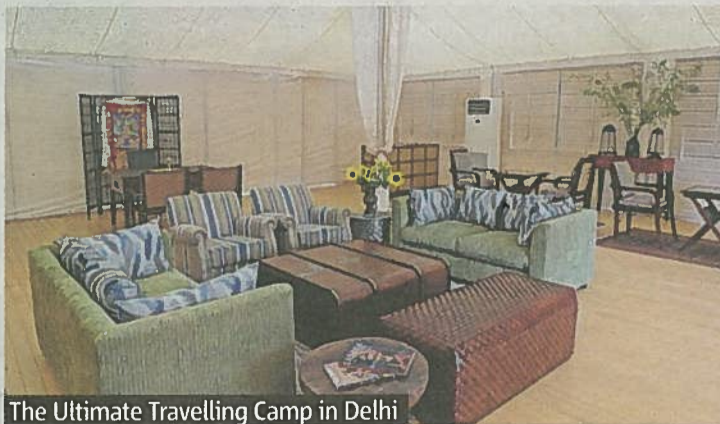
from £1,295, excluding flights. [redspokes.co.uk](http://redspokes.co.uk)

### FEELING FESTIVE

Ladakh in the summer is awash with spiritual festivals and the one to attend this year is the Kalachakra festival. Dating back to the 6th century BC, it celebrates world peace and this year will be led by the Dalai Lama. Visitors to the festival (July 3 to 14) can expect other-worldly tantric teachings via prayers, meditations, dances, chants, vows and the creation of huge sand mandalas. India travel experts Cox & Kings can organise an 11-day bespoke trip to Ladakh to coincide with this festival from £4,095, including flights, excursions and five nights' accommodation at the Ultimate Travelling Camp and four nights in Delhi. There is a supplement for travel during the Kalachakra festival, from £400. [coxandkings.co.uk](http://coxandkings.co.uk)

### GET INSPIRED

A good walking guide is essential. Lonely Planet's *Trekking In The Indian Himalaya* can be bought in electronic format (£11.99). Or, if you are visiting just one area, download individual chapters for £2.99 each ([lonelyplanet.com](http://lonelyplanet.com)). Or there's into *The Untraveller Himalaya* by Harish Kapadia, which mixes practical walking advice with inspirational essays, giving the reader an insight into the landscape, history and culture. (£12.99, [stanfords.co.uk](http://stanfords.co.uk)). Finally, delving deep into Buddhist culture, Andrew Harvey's *A Journey In Ladakh* describes his gruelling journey and encounters with local traditions (£9.99, [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)).



The Ultimate Travelling Camp in Delhi

Return Virgin Atlantic flights from London to Delhi cost from £529. [virginatlantic.com](http://virginatlantic.com)

Terms and Conditions: Calls cost 55p/min from a BT landline. You may also be charged a connection fee. Mobile and other providers' charges may vary. Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm, Saturday 9am - 5pm, Sunday 9am - 5pm. Prices are per person, based on two people sharing, and are subject to availability. Excludes peak dates. The star ratings that are shown are the tour operators own. Different countries have different standards; so a three-star hotel in one country may not be the equivalent to another country. City tax may be payable in resort. Image might not reflect actual holiday experience. Holidays are operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Broadway Travel, ABTA 17088 ATOL 3654 protected, a company independent of Associated Newspapers Ltd. When you respond, Associated Newspapers Ltd and other companies in the DMGT Group may contact you with offers/services that may be of interest. Please give your mobile or email details if you wish to receive such offers by SMS or email. We will not give your details to other companies without your permission; please let us know if you are happy for us to do so. ABTA No. 17088