Goa Wind up with some R&R on Goa’s gorgeous beaches – try broadly appealing Palolem and/or hippie-chic Anjuna.

Agra As well as the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort, try to get to the abandoned Mughal capital of Fatehpur Sikri.

Hampi From Goa take a side trip to the ruined capital of the old Hindu Vijayanagar empire, with an otherworldly setting and a unique atmosphere.

Varanasi Sunrise over the ghats from a boat on the holy Ganges is likely to be one of your most memorable images of all.

Darjeeling Stare at mighty Khangchendzonga (8598m), tour a tea plantation, ride the colonial-era toy train and maybe take a short Himalayan trek.

Goa to Hampi: 1½hr to Margao, then 8hr to Hosapete, then 30min to Hampi

Agra to Hampi: 6hr to Bagdogra, then 2½hr to Darjeeling

Darjeeling to Hampi: 2½hr to Bagdogra, then 8hr to Goa, then 1½hr to Palolem or Anjuna