

**NOTES OF THE VISITS TO INDIA
OF THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES
THE PRINCE OF WALES DUKE
OF EDINBURGH 1870-1876-6**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649659210

Notes of the Visits to India of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales Duke of Edinburgh
1870-1876-6 by Sir J. Fayrer

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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SIR J. FAYRER

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With Sir J. Fayrer's (B)
Compliments

NOTES OF THE VISITS
TO INDIA

OF THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE

Albert Edward

PRINCE OF WALES

AND

Alfred

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

1870-1875-6.

BY

SIR J. FAYRER, K.C.S.I., LL.D., M.D., F.R.S.,

*Hon. Physician to Her Majesty the Queen,
And to their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the
Duke of Edinburgh.*

PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY.

LONDON:

KERBY & ENDEAN, 190, OXFORD STREET.

1879.

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PREFACE.


THESE Notes of my travels in India with the Princes are very brief and fragmentary—a mere diary—but they will, I hope, interest those for whom they were written, as they give some account of where I went and what I did. Both expeditions, happily, proved most successful. The Prince of Wales returned to England, after a long and rapid journey through a variety of climates and exposure to many causes of disease and accident, the object accomplished without loss of life, and with comparatively little sickness. It was a duty of considerable anxiety and responsibility that I had to perform, but I never entertained any doubt as to the course that ought to be pursued in regard to sanitary precautions, and, when difficulties occasionally arose, my recommendations were generally accepted by those best able to form a correct opinion on their merits. I have reason to be thankful that all terminated so well, and shall always look back with pleasure and satisfaction to the expedition.

The gracious recognition that I have received from the Queen and Royal Family, assured me that my services, however imperfect, were appreciated. The courtesy and kindness of my companions on both occasions, and the firm support of many during periods of anxiety, made my duty agreeable, and have impressed me with strong feelings of regard and friendship for them all.

[To my Wife and Children.]



VISIT OF H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES TO INDIA.

 ON the 17th of March, 1875, I received the following note from Major-General Sir Thomas Pears, Military Secretary at the India Office :—

MARCH 17TH, 1875, INDIA OFFICE.

MY DEAR DR. FAYRER,—The Prince of Wales contemplates a visit to India next cold season, and will probably leave England in November for an absence of four or five months. H.R.H. has expressed a wish that you should accompany him as his medical adviser, and the Marquis of Salisbury will be glad to hear from you as soon as possible whether you will be willing to accept the office.

Yours sincerely (*Signed*),

Dr. Fayrer, C.S.I.

T. PEARS.

I sent the following reply :—

MARCH 17TH, 1875.

MY DEAR SIR THOMAS PEARS,—I will accompany the Prince of Wales to India with the greatest pleasure, and feel much honoured by His Royal Highness's commands.—Yours sincerely,

Major-General Sir T. T. Pears, K.C.B.

J. FAYRER.

On the 17th April, 1875, I went with the Prince and Princess of Wales, Sir B. Frere, and General Probyn to Sandringham, to pay a visit, and returned to London on the 19th April.

I made expeditions to Portsmouth at different times : one on the 27th May, 1875, with ~~Admiral~~ Sir W. Mends, K.C.B., the Admiral charged with the fitting out of the *Serapis*. We went all over the ship, and I made some suggestions as to fittings. On another occasion I accompanied the Prince and Suite, and made suggestions about the cabins. Returned with them to London the same day.

I had an interview with the Prince of Wales on 25th May, at Marlborough House ; was presented to Princess Alice and Prince of Hesse. I attended some meetings of the Suite with Probyn, Ellis, W. H. Russell, Sir B. Frere, and H.R.H., to discuss details connected with the expedition. Wrote a memo. on the subject, giving my views as to when the Prince should arrive in, and leave India, and on other matters connected with the expedition.

MEMO.

It would be better not to arrive in India before the 15th or 20th of November ; nor to remain later than the 1st of March.

If Cashmere be visited, it will involve a longer stay in the country. This, as far as Cashmere is concerned, would be unobjection-

able, as the elevation is about 5,000 feet, and the climate cool and healthy up to a much later period; but as it would be necessary to re-embark at Bombay, a return to the heat of the plains of India would be inevitable, though only for a few days.

There would probably be some risk to health, and the inconvenience would be considerable, though brief.

A visit to Cashmere would, therefore, require careful consideration before being undertaken.

If Ceylon be included in the programme, it will be well to commence with that island, and about the 25th of November would be a good time for doing so.

The latitude of Ceylon implies an equable temperature, and such, as a matter of fact, is the case. The climate is humid and warm, but not unhealthy. The following are the "means" of maximum and minimum temperatures of the five months — November, December, January, February and March :—

| MONTHS. | Mean Maximum | Mean Minimum | Rain Fall | REMARKS. |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| November ... | 86°·3 | 71°·5 | 10·7 | N.E. Monsoon commences |
| December ... | 85° | 70° | 4·3 | |
| January | 85°·6 | 69°·2 | 3·1 | Weather gets oppressive |
| February ... | 89° | 71° | 2·1 | |
| March | 87°·7 | 73°·1 | 2·1 | |

Ceylon, I presume, would be visited either at the beginning or termination of the Indian Expedition, and this would probably be in the latter part of November, or in March. December and January are the coolest months, but these should be spent in Bengal and N.W.P. In March it begins to be oppressive in Ceylon.

The island *might* be visited in March or April, but it would be hot. In May the S.W. monsoon sets in, and it would not be desirable to remain till then. Moreover, the return voyage would be disagreeable.

From after the 15th November up to the beginning, or even middle of February, the plains of India, generally, offer an excellent climate; even in Madras it is not very warm. Much of the country of Mysore and the Deccan lies high, and the climate is agreeable and healthy.

These parts of India might be visited immediately after Ceylon. In Bengal, December, January, and the first half of February are cool and pleasant; often cold. Arriving in Calcutta about, or after the 10th of December, the climate would be excellent, travelling and camp-life most enjoyable and free from risk. At any season the middle of the day may be somewhat hot, but there is no danger, and the simplest precautions obviate any inconvenience. The air is bright, genial, and invigorating; the highest state of health may be anticipated, and the wholesome effect of the out-of-door life is manifest. There is no special tendency to disease, and none need be feared beyond such ailments as might occur anywhere. It is no exaggeration to say that the climate of the plains of India during December, January and February is superior to that of Europe, and is congenial to the European constitution.

This is the season for shooting, sight-seeing and camp-life.

The best tiger-shooting in some parts of India, however, is later : in March, April, and May.

Supposing Calcutta were to be left about the middle of December, Bengal, including Purneah, Maldah, perhaps some of the Berhampootra Churs (good shooting grounds), might be visited. So on to Benares, Allahabad, Central India, the Central Provinces, and perhaps next to Oude, Lucknow, the Terai, Nepal frontier and Rohilkund.

Thence to N.W. Provinces, Delhi, Agra, Rajpootana, and the Punjab. Throughout all these provinces and districts the climate is excellent, and remains cool and pleasant even up to the middle of March.

From the Punjab the Hill Stations might be visited. They would be very cold, but the weather would, probably, be bright and clear.

The climate of the N.W. Provinces and Punjab, indeed all North India, from December to March, is one of the finest in the world, being more bracing than that of the south. It is frequently very cold, and especially at nights, the thermometer falling to freezing point or lower.

The cold weather is more prolonged than in Lower Bengal.

In Calcutta it often becomes unpleasantly warm in the day after the 15th February, whilst in the North-West the cold, fresh air continues fully a month later. It is healthy enough even throughout the great heat of the latter part of April, May, and June, but very oppressive, and, after the West winds begin, intolerably so.

Care as to proper clothing, food, drink, and immediate attention to ailments, however trivial, is necessary under all circumstances; with due attention to these, and the most ordinary precaution for preserving health, a visit to India in the cold season is as free from danger to life or health, as it would be in any part of Europe.

The following are the "means" of daily temperature of different parts of India for the year :—

| STATIONS. | January. | February. | March. | April. | May. | June. | July. | August. | September. | October. | November. | December. |
|-------------|----------|-----------|--------|--------|------|-------|-------|---------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Galle | 78°3 | 78°8 | 81°0 | 81°7 | 82°1 | 80°4 | 79°1 | 79°4 | 79°5 | 80°2 | 79°3 | 78°8 |
| Madras ... | 77° | 78°2 | 82°1 | 84°7 | 86°7 | 89°6 | 88°6 | 86°1 | 85°1 | 79°4 | 77°8 | 77°1 |
| Calcutta | 68°3 | 74°5 | 80°3 | 84°4 | 87° | 88°2 | 83°5 | 83°5 | 84°5 | 82°1 | 76° | 70°2 |
| Patna ... | 62°2 | | | | 91°6 | 91°4 | 86°7 | 85°3 | 86°1 | 80°2 | 72°1 | 64° |
| Benares | 62°3 | 68°6 | 78°3 | 89°3 | 92°9 | 97°6 | 86°6 | 85°6 | 85°4 | 77°8 | 69°3 | 62° |
| Allahabad | 62°3 | 68°8 | 78°6 | 89°3 | 92°1 | 97°4 | 85°1 | 85°1 | 84°3 | 76°8 | 69°1 | 60°8 |
| Lucknow | 62°3 | 65°3 | 77° | 89°5 | 91°8 | 97°8 | 87° | 86° | 85° | 78°3 | 67°5 | 61° |
| Agra | 63°9 | 70°7 | 80°7 | 91°2 | 90°2 | 97°7 | 86°7 | 84°7 | 81°7 | 76°4 | 68°9 | 62°2 |
| Meerut ... | 60°6 | 67°6 | 76°3 | 87°3 | 88°6 | 97°1 | 87°6 | 86°8 | 82°8 | 76°6 | 67°3 | 58°1 |
| Nagpore | 71° | 77°1 | 83°1 | 90°8 | 93°7 | 89°5 | 80°9 | 82°1 | 80°4 | 78°2 | 74°4 | 67° |

If Bombay were reached towards the end of February, India might be quitted by 1st of March, unless circumstances and an unusually prolonged cold weather suggested a more protracted stay, and then the question of visiting Cashmere would arise.

By limiting the stay in India within these dates, and following something like the above plan of route, the best part of India might be visited in a season which, as to climate, can scarcely be surpassed, and when there is no reason to anticipate either inconvenience or danger to health.

Certain precautions and care are necessary, of course, and should be scrupulously observed. It is essential that there should not be undue hurry in travelling, or any attempt to do too much.

With all economy and pre-arrangement of plans, much would have to be done, and it is essential to health that there should be intervals of rest and quiet, to avoid over-fatigue. Therefore, beyond what is unavoidable, the amount of fatiguing ceremonial, and visiting of public institutions should be as limited as possible, and the time spent in camp should exceed that in cities. I believe that, with such precautions, the expedition would be free from all danger, and will be conducive to health.

On the 26th July, 1875, I saw Lord Carnarvon at the Colonial Office, with Dr. Charsley, late P.M.O. in Ceylon, to discuss the prospects from a health point of view, of the Ceylon trip; and also the expediency of avoiding certain districts in the island. Dr. C. gave me much useful information, and we satisfied Lord Carnarvon that no undue risk need be incurred. The exact route to be followed in Ceylon was left undetermined until we arrived there, I also consulted with Mr. Birch, secretary to the Government of Ceylon, and saw Lord Salisbury on the subject; communications from Mr. Gregory, the Governor of Ceylon, were also referred to me. I received valuable information from Captain Stuart, of the P. and O. service, on the climate of the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, during the season of the year when the Prince was likely to be there; whilst the secretary of the P. and O. was most courteous and obliging in furnishing any information required. Admiral Sir W. Mends obtained for me valuable information concerning the temperature of the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. I received many communications on the subject of climate of different parts of India from other gentlemen, and an interesting letter on Mysore and its vicinity from Mr. J. D. Gordon, C.S.I., of that commission, which was of much value in reference to one of the most important questions that arose subsequently in regard to the modification of the Prince's movements on account of the cholera that prevailed in those parts.

Dr. Lord, of the Bombay service, gave me interesting information relating to sport and game localities in Central India. These would have been of great service had time permitted the Prince to visit the places indicated.

I made some suggestions as to the clothing and head-dress to be worn, and, on the whole, those adopted did well.

As to guns, I took with me my two 12 central fire smooth-bores, with plenty of No. 6 shot and round bullet cartridges, and also a 12 rifle, by Moore and Grey, with round and conical bullet cartridges, and a revolver. I also had several pairs of Indian clubs, of different weights, put on board the *Serapis* for exercise during the passage out.