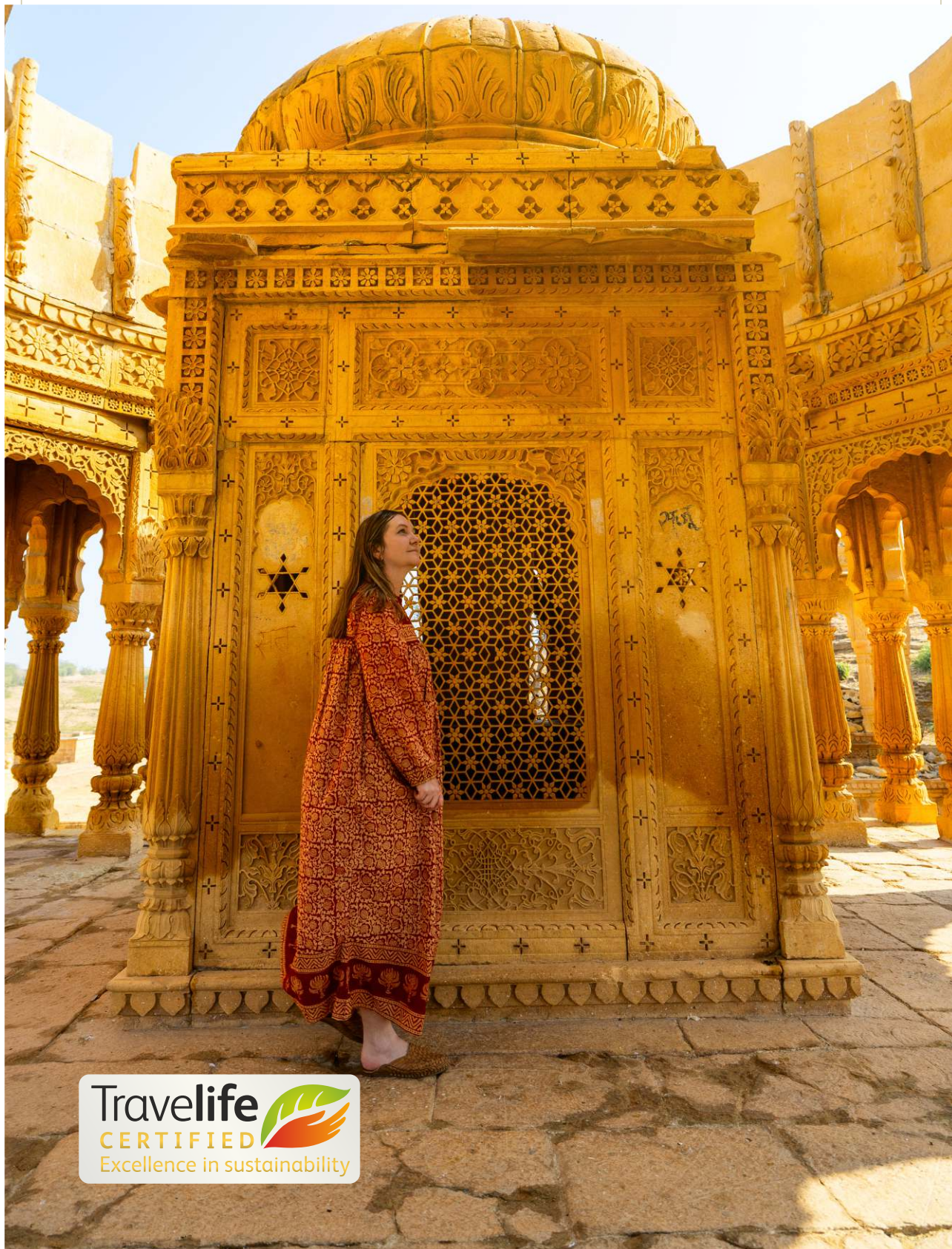




TRAVEL GUIDELINES FOR INDIA



VISA FORMALITIES

Foreign nationals coming to India are required to possess a valid national passport establishing their nationality and identity. The passport must be valid for at least six more months from the date of arrival in India and should have at least two blank pages for stamping by the Immigration Officer.

An immigration check is conducted for all passengers, whether Indian or foreign, at the time of arrival and departure. Passports are duly stamped upon both arrival and departure. Passengers should ensure their passports are properly stamped before leaving the immigration counter. Foreign Nationals must complete and submit the e-Arrival card online within 72 hours before their arrival in India at <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/earrival> or via official Indian Visa Su-Swagatam mobile app.

E-TOURIST VISA

The e-Visa facility, with Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA), is presently available to nationals of 174 countries for entry through 33 designated international airports and 33 major Indian seaports for cruise tourists.

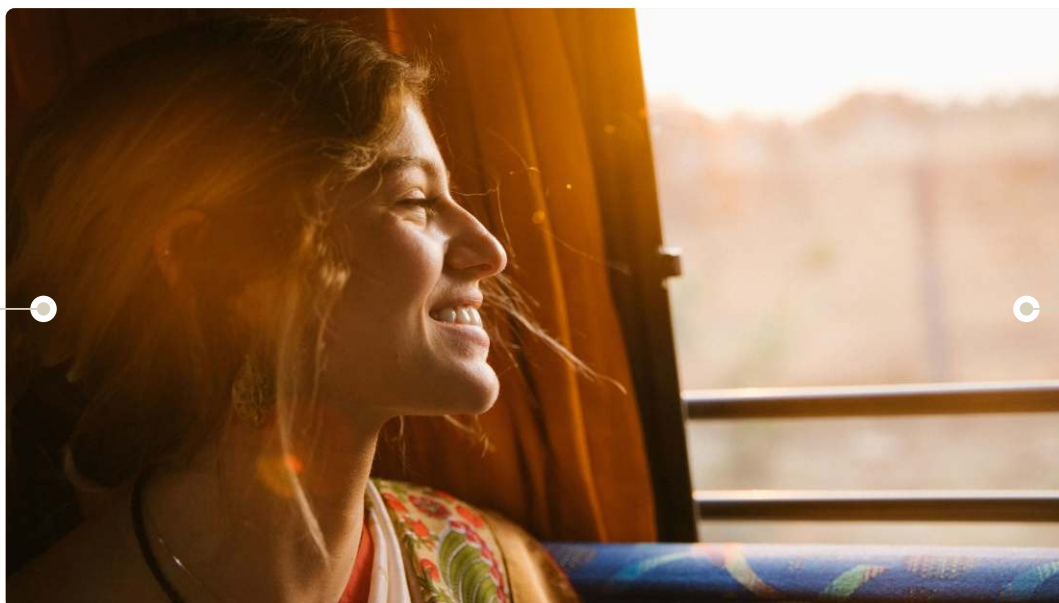
Details are available on the official website:
<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>

The e-Tourist Visa service is rendered in a time-bound manner and may take 72 hours or more for processing. Applicants will be notified about their visa status via the email address provided in the e-Visa application.

Travellers can apply up to 120 days prior to their travel; we recommend applying sooner than later. The e-Tourist Visa is granted for a minimum of 1 month and a maximum of 5 years with multiple entries. The maximum stay in India during one calendar year is limited to 180 days for both the 1-year and 5-year Tourist Visa options.

For the e-Tourist Visa (30 days), the validity period will be 30 days from the date of the first arrival in India. Double entries will be granted within the e-Visa validity period stamped on your passport. Your first arrival must occur between the date of issue and the expiry of the Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA).

It is essential to keep a printed copy of the e-Visa handy, as it is required at the time of boarding the flight to India.



VISITING PROTECTED / RESTRICTED AREAS

Designated under the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958, Protected Areas are those located between the “Inner Line” defined in the Order and the international border of the state. Restricted Areas are less sensitive than Protected Areas but still require government oversight.

Foreign nationals planning to visit a Protected or Restricted Area in India must apply for a Protected Area Permit or Restricted Area Permit (PAP/RAP). The application should be submitted to the Indian Mission in their country, either with the visa application or before travelling to India. We recommend applying at least 30 days before arrival.

Protected / Restricted Areas are located in the following states:

- i. Whole of Arunachal Pradesh
- ii. Parts of Himachal Pradesh
- iii. Parts of Jammu & Kashmir
- iv. Whole of Manipur
- v. Whole of Mizoram
- vi. Whole of Nagaland
- vii. Parts of Rajasthan
- viii. Whole of Sikkim (partly in Protected Area and partly in Restricted Area)
- ix. Parts of Uttarakhand
- x. Entire Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

*Protected Area Permit or Restricted Area Permit (PAP / RAP) shall be required for all such places as notified by the Government of India from time to time.

INSURANCE

It is always advisable to obtain good travel insurance to cover any unforeseen incidents. Keep a copy of your policy separately as a safeguard. Please take the time to confirm that all activities, excursions, and destinations in your itinerary are included in your travel insurance policy.



HEALTH & ACTIVITY

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has recently launched **AIR SUVIDHA 2.0** as an upgraded, contactless Passenger Health Self-Declaration Portal to strengthen public health surveillance at India's international Points of Entry in response to the ongoing Ebola outbreak. Developed with the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the portal enables arriving international passengers to submit a mandatory online Health Self-Declaration, including their 21-day travel history, exposure history and any related symptoms, up to 24 hours before arrival. Guests should complete the form before boarding and present the downloaded declaration at the International Travel Health Desk or Immigration for faster, seamless clearance.

Here is a link to the Press Release issued by Ministry of Civil Aviation dated 25th June 2026:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2277639®=48&lang=1>

AIR SUVIDHA 2.0 portal can be accessed with this link:

<https://airsuvidha.civilaviation.gov.in/>

Persons arriving from Yellow Fever (YF) endemic countries (or those who have visited any Yellow Fever-endemic country in the past 6 days) will be required to possess a valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate from an authorised vaccination centre. The validity period of the international Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is life-long, beginning 10 days after vaccination.

Guests are advised to ensure they are up to date with routine vaccinations and consider recommended travel vaccines for India, particularly Hepatitis A and Typhoid. Please refer to your country's health advisory for further information and recommendations.

Please be aware that the infrastructure in India and some neighbouring countries can present challenges for those with walking difficulties or other mobility issues. Those requiring specialised assistance must be accompanied by a capable companion who can provide essential support.

Check air quality reports for your destination city (using the Central Pollution Control Board website). If air quality is poor, consider wearing a respirator mask (N95). If you have respiratory conditions, carry your prescribed medications and consult your doctor about potential air quality concerns.



It can also be quite warm during sightseeing, but using sun protection, wearing a hat and sunglasses, and drinking lots of water can help minimise the impact of the weather.

It is advisable to carry mosquito repellent to ensure optimal protection against mosquitoes, especially between dusk and dawn.

Good public toilet facilities are rare on the road. You are encouraged to take every opportunity to use a clean toilet in places such as hotels and restaurants. Most of the hotels and restaurants provide western style restroom facilities.

CREDIT CARDS

Major credit cards, including Visa and Mastercard, are widely accepted at establishments in major towns and cities across India. However, American Express cards are generally not accepted, except at select high-end hotels in larger cities. When making purchases, it's important to exercise caution. We recommend keeping your credit card within your direct line of sight at all times and double-checking your charge slip for accuracy in entries and amounts.



CURRENCY & FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The official currency of India is the Indian Rupee, symbolised by the sign ₹. The banknotes currently in circulation are in denominations of ₹10, ₹20, ₹50, ₹100, ₹200, and ₹500.

Banks, hotels, and authorised money-changers can exchange foreign currency for rupees. Receipts (called "Encashment Certificates") should be retained, as these will enable you to reconvert any balance into dollars or another foreign currency when you leave the country, provided the receipt is not more than 30 days old. Almost all cities and towns in India have ATMs that accept Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. International airports also have currency exchange booths that are open around the clock.

PAYMENTS

Foreign nationals can settle their hotel bills using foreign currency or Indian Rupees, either in cash or via credit/debit card.

TIME ZONE

India follows a single time zone, which is 5 hours and 30 minutes ahead of GMT (Greenwich Mean Time). However, due to daylight saving time in certain countries, the time difference between India and those countries may change depending on their location and daylight-saving adjustments.

For example here are the details of the time difference between India and UK:

Standard Time (late October to late March):

The UK operates on Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), and India is on Indian Standard Time (IST), which is GMT+5:30. Therefore, the time difference is 5 hours and 30 minutes ahead of UK.

Daylight Saving Time (late March to late October):

UK observes British Summer Time (BST), which is GMT+1. During this period, the time difference is 4 hours and 30 minutes ahead of UK.



BUSINESS HOURS

Government Offices / Shops:

Monday - Friday, 1000 hrs - 1700 hrs

Some Government Offices are open on alternate Saturdays.

Banking Hours:

Monday - Friday, and the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturday of every month - 10:00 hrs to 15:30 hrs (for public dealings).

NOTE: Timings may vary according to individual bank schedules, but generally, the above timings are followed. Banks remain closed on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month.

Private Offices operate on a five-day workweek, with Saturdays and Sundays off. Some offices work half-days on Saturdays as well. General office hours are 0930 hrs - 1800 hrs.

Shops do not have standardised timings. In major metropolitan areas, malls and department stores may stay open until 22:00 hrs, seven days a week. Some shops in certain areas have one closing day, either Monday or Tuesday. In many small towns, shops generally close around 2000 hrs.

Restaurants and bars have different legally enforced closing hours depending on the state. In most parts of the country, these closing hours are typically around midnight or even earlier.



CLIMATE

The climate in India varies depending on the location and time of travel. In northern India, the weather during the late fall and winter months of October through March is dry, with temperatures averaging 7°C (45°F) in the early morning and evening, and 21 to 25°C (70 to 75°F) during the day. The rainy season is from June to September, with average temperatures ranging from 34 to 36°C (93 to 96°F). The post-monsoon season, which is the northeast monsoon in South India, occurs from October to November. Summer (April to May) is hot, with temperatures around 36°C (96°F) everywhere, except in the hills.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

FULL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

January 26 - Republic Day
August 15 - Independence Day
October 02 - Mahatma Gandhi's birthday

There are other local holidays which are applicable to different states.

MEET AND GREET

Upon arrival at one of India's International Airports, you will first go through immigration before proceeding to collect your baggage. Please have all the required documents handy, including your passport, visa, and arrival card, before proceeding to the Immigration Hall. After clearing immigration, you will proceed to the Baggage Reclaim area to collect your checked-in baggage. After collecting

your bags, you will proceed to Customs to clear your baggage under either the Green or Red Channel. Proceed to the Green Channel if you do not have any dutiable goods to declare and to the Red Channel if you have dutiable goods to declare. After completing the customs process, you can proceed to the exit of the Arrivals Hall.

Outside the Arrivals Hall, you will be greeted by our airport representative holding a hand-held sign displaying your name. Please move slowly to ensure you can spot our representative amidst the crowd. This procedure will also be followed for domestic flight arrivals, although it does not involve customs and immigration counters. In the rare event that our airport representative cannot be located, please contact our emergency number provided in the contact details.

Please [click here](#) to watch our meet-and-greet video to understand how we welcome and receive guests at the airport.

CUSTOMS & DECLARATIONS

Please familiarise yourself with India's customs declaration requirements before you travel. In general, you are not permitted to bring live plants, fresh fruits, and other produce items into most countries. For details, please visit India's Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs at <https://www.cbic.gov.in/entities/internationalTravellers>



E-CIGARETTES

E-cigarettes are not allowed to be brought into India. Indian airport authorities have prohibited passengers from carrying e-cigarettes in both cabin and checked-in luggage. This regulation applies to both domestic and international flights. Any e-cigarette found in possession may be confiscated during security checks.

TELEPHONE / COMMUNICATION

Telephone calls to all countries are now direct, with service quality comparable to international standards. Direct dialing is possible between almost all cities and towns within India. Fax facilities are widely available, and it is also possible to send

email messages from almost all hotels. Most hotels, except in remote locations, provide free Wi-Fi facilities to inhouse guests.

Postal services in India are good, and stamps can be bought at the hotels.

Obtaining a local Indian SIM card (such as Airtel or Jio) for the foreign guests requires an in-person KYC (Know Your Customer) process using a valid passport and Indian visa. Activation typically takes between a few hours and 24 hours after KYC is completed. At major international airport kiosks, the SIM may be activated within 15 – 60 minutes, whereas applications processed at city retail stores can take 4 – 24 hours and, in some cases, up to 48 hours due to manual verification. eSIMs may be available for compatible devices; however, availability and activation procedures vary by mobile operator and location.

SATELLITE PHONES

International travellers are prohibited from bringing satellite phones into India without seeking special permission from the Department of Telecommunication, Government of India.



ELECTRICITY

The electrical current at hotels in India is 220V, 50Hz AC. If you bring electrical devices that do not meet these standards, you may need to bring the appropriate converters and adapters for your convenience.

CLOTHING

While preparing for your travel to India, we suggest that you select a wardrobe that is adaptable and allows for layering. In India, delicate fabrics do not stand up well to laundering facilities except at deluxe hotels.

Plain cotton or cotton-synthetic blend clothing is the most practical and is the coolest in summer. It is best to avoid synthetic fabrics that are not breathable. A hat with a wide brim will help protect you from the harsh sun. During the fall season, a collapsible umbrella comes in handy. During the winter months, sweaters and light jackets are necessary.

India is culturally diverse, and dress norms vary across regions and settings. While major cities are generally cosmopolitan, a more conservative style of dress is appreciated in smaller towns and villages where the locals may not have much exposure to western travellers.

To show respect when visiting places of worship, opting for modest clothing is ideal. For women, long skirts, dresses, or trousers work beautifully, while a scarf is a handy way to cover your shoulders if you are wearing a sleeveless top. Ensuring shoulders and legs are covered helps maintain the right atmosphere and avoids any entry issues. Similarly, men generally find that choosing trousers over shorts aligns best with local customs. Adapting to local customs can often open doors, spark conversations, and earn smiles from local people.



LOCAL CUSTOMS

EATING – In India, people often eat with their right hand. The left hand is often considered inauspicious and is generally not used to eat or to handle food and money. Sitting on the floor with folded legs while eating is a tradition in some parts of the country and at religious places.

FEET – The soles of your feet pointing towards someone is considered offensive, so care should be taken to avoid this. In the same vein, feet should not be placed on furniture. If you accidentally touch someone with your foot, it is common practice to apologise. It is also customary to remove your shoes when entering a private home, as well as places of worship and burial.

GARLANDING – Playing the perfect host is an integral part of Indian culture and tradition. As such, Indian people go to great lengths to make their guests feel welcome. Garlanding, performing Aarti, and applying tilak (red vermilion mark on the forehead of the guest) are important parts of the reception ritual, especially upon arrivals at hotels. There are basically two reasons behind the garlanding tradition in India. Firstly, it showcases one's happiness at receiving the guest, and secondly, it is a form of publicly acknowledging the guest's importance. The fact that, apart from guests, it's only the various gods and goddesses who are garlanded shows the significance attached to this tradition in India.

GREETINGS – The Indian greeting is to put your hands together in front of your chin (as for praying) and incline your head forward, saying 'Namaste.'

LANGUAGE – Hindi, written in the Devanagari script, is India's official language and the most widely spoken language in the country. However, each state is free to choose its own official language(s) for administration and education. Consequently, India is home to 22 officially recognised languages, alongside hundreds of regional dialects.

English is widely spoken across the country and is commonly used in business, government, education and tourism. While widely understood, accents and usage can vary considerably between regions.

PERSONAL SPACE - India is densely populated, so crowded spaces are common. However, outside very crowded public transport, strangers generally avoid physical contact. Touching someone of another gender may be considered inappropriate. At the same time, it is common to see friends of the same gender holding hands or hugging.

RELIGIOUS PLACES - Temples and mosques prohibit shoes inside the building, and signs are sometimes posted when this is the case. Some Hindu temples do not permit non-Hindus to enter. A visitor should ask for guidance if there is any doubt. While visiting mosques, women should cover their hair and not expose their arms or legs. Mosques that welcome non-Muslim visitors will often have ankle-length outer coverings on a rack near the main entrance for borrowing for use before entering the mosque. Shoes, of course, are removed before entering. In Sikh temples, called Gurudwaras, head coverings for both men and women are required (and sometimes provided). Priests in Gurudwaras also offer the visitor blessed food, which should be accepted with both hands; refusing to do so may be considered offensive to the faith. The food should either be eaten or given to someone else.



SAFETY

Avoid walking alone at night, especially in poorly lit or less populated areas. Book rides through Apps or ask your hotel to arrange transportation. Use reputable taxi or cab service provider (for example Uber, Ola, Green SM, Rapido etc.). Verify the vehicle's license plate against the App's information before boarding them. Share your travel itinerary and location with a trusted friend or family member. If you feel uncomfortable or threatened, be assertive and seek help from a trusted authority figure.

CRIME & THEFT

Most hotels provide lockers to keep your valuables safe. We advise you to be cautious with valuables and your passport when venturing outside. Please do not accept food or drinks from strangers, and do not leave your food or drinks unattended. Be mindful of your surroundings in crowded places to avoid pickpocketing. We recommend carrying a fanny pack for your passport, phone, and money secure while keeping your hands free. Scams, such as ATM and credit card skimming are common, so please do not let your card be taken away from your sight while shopping. Beware of any unsolicited offers or requests for assistance, especially in the tourist areas. Such interactions are best avoided. Violence against foreigners is rare, provided basic precautions are taken, just like anywhere else in the world.

BEWARE OF ENGAGING WITH STRAY ANIMALS

While being outdoors on sightseeing tours and excursions, please be aware of stray animals that may be wandering around you, such as dogs, cats, pigs, cows, donkeys, monkeys, etc. These animals are generally harmless but can sometimes be unpredictable. Avoid petting or feeding them, as it could attract more animals and lead to unexpected violent behaviour. Stay alert, especially when walking down the streets, and maintain a safe distance from stray animals to ensure a pleasant and safe outdoor experience.



DINING

India offers a huge variety of cuisines, with combinations of different spices giving each region its own distinctive flavour. Seafood is a specialty in the coastal areas, and coconut is used in many Kerala dishes in the south. European, Chinese and Pan Asian dishes can usually be found at 4-star and 5-star hotels. In metropolitan cities, we would be happy to recommend suitable restaurants outside your hotel. Meals in remote areas and wildlife parks will invariably be table d'hôte.

To reduce the risk of stomach upsets, avoid eating undercooked meat, undercooked vegetables, and uncooked foods such as raw salads and cut fruits. Choose fruits that can be peeled, and ensure that any fresh fruit has been thoroughly washed with bottled water before consumption. Always wash your hands before and after eating.

Altitude sickness can occur in certain regions of high altitude, so let your bodies adjust to the elevation slowly, and keep yourself hydrated. Coconut water is brilliant for rehydrating during extreme heat. If you do get dehydrated through illness or heat, the 1 tsp salt / 8 tsp sugar in 1 litre of water combo works perfectly.

We strongly recommend drinking only bottled water during your travel through India. Avoid drinking tap water, or using it to brush your teeth unless it has been boiled, filtered, or chemically disinfected, and keep ice cubes at arm's length. As part of our 'Bottle For Change' initiative, you will be provided with a new, sealed, reusable stainless-steel tumbler that can be refilled throughout your journey with Bisleri mineral water, ensuring safe drinking water while supporting more sustainable travel and reducing single-use plastic waste.

Minor stomach ailments are the most common affliction of visitors to India. While inconvenient, they can dampen your enjoyment for a few days. We suggest rehydrating with clean fluids and oral rehydration solutions. It is also advised to carry medicines for possible stomach upsets or indigestion. Most hotels have a doctor on call to attend to your immediate medical needs.

Local brands of alcoholic drinks are widely available, as well as international brands in larger hotels. Where alcohol is available, please be aware that menu prices may not reflect the final amount payable, as applicable taxes and service charges will be added to the bill.

Alcohol is prohibited in the states of Bihar, Gujarat, Mizoram, and Nagaland. Foreigners and visitors from other parts of India can apply online for a liquor permit in Gujarat. There are 90 stores across the state, including 26 in Ahmedabad, where liquor can be purchased upon producing a physical copy of the permit. National holidays such as Republic Day (26 January), Independence Day (15 August), Gandhi Jayanti (2 October), and days around elections are usually dry days.



VISITING PLACES OF WORSHIP

It is essential to remove your shoes before entering temples, mosques, or gurdwaras. Avoid taking leather goods (such as bags, belts, wallets, etc.) and cigarettes into places of worship, as these are not permitted. It is recommended to avoid wearing shorts or sleeveless tops in places of public worship. Alcohol consumption is usually banned in religious places of various persuasions.

FESTIVALS

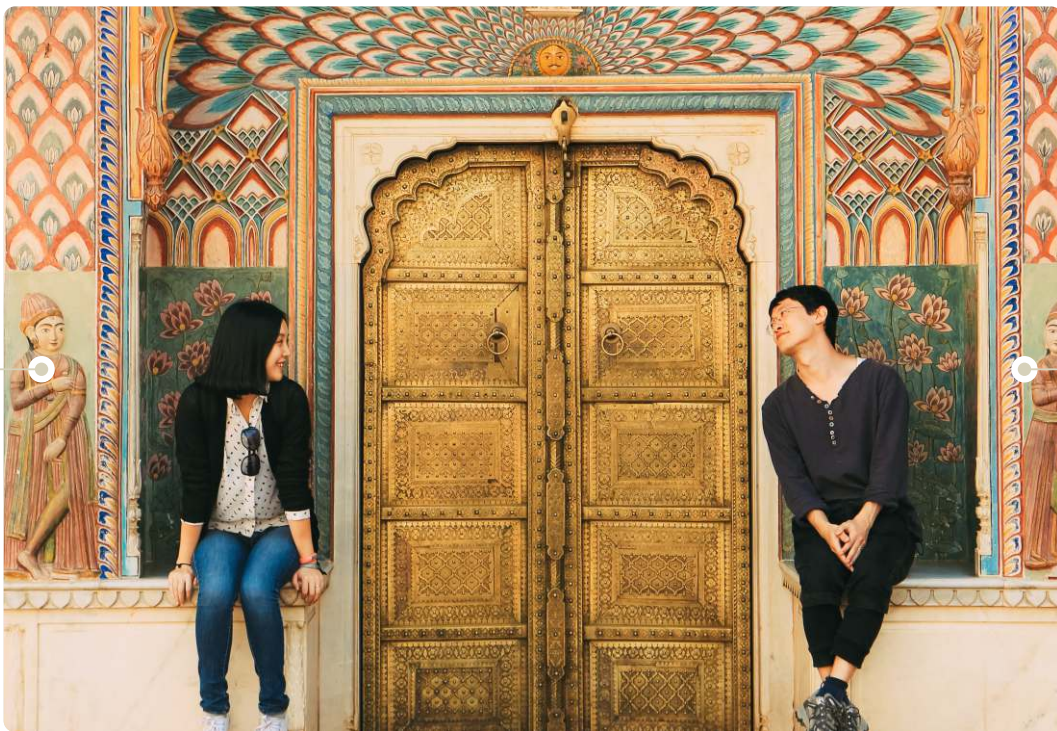
Check with us in advance for any Indian festival scheduled to take place during your journey. If participating in celebration of an Indian festival a few precautions need to be taken for a safe and enjoyable experience. Large crowds are common, so staying alert and securing valuables is essential. Dressing modestly, especially in religious places, shows cultural respect. Enjoy festive delicacies but choose hygienic eateries and bottled water. During Diwali, be cautious around fireworks and avoid synthetic fabrics; for Holi, use natural colours and wear protective eyewear. Roads can be crowded, so plan travel in advance. Participating in rituals respectfully and understanding local customs will enhance the experience.

NIGHTLIFE

India's nightlife ranges from traditional bars and restaurants to grunge or alternative lifestyle bars, discos, clubs, and lounges. Most clubs prefer their guests to arrive in pairs.

a) **Closing time** – In India, nightlife generally starts earlier and ends earlier than in many global nightlife destinations due to licensing restrictions. Mumbai offers one of the country's largest nightlife scenes, with many venues closing around 1:30 AM. Delhi is broadly similar, with most bars closing around 1:00 AM and some clubs operating later. Bengaluru now permits many licensed establishments to remain open until 1:00 AM, while Hyderabad has a mix of closing times ranging from about 11:00 PM to 1:00 AM depending on the venue. Chennai remains comparatively restrictive, with many venues closing around 11:00–11:30 PM.

b) **Legal drinking age** – The legal drinking age in India varies by state and union territory. Delhi's legal drinking age is 21 years. States and territories with a drinking age of 18 include Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, and Sikkim. In many other states, the legal drinking age is 21, although Kerala sets it at 23 and some jurisdictions such as Maharashtra and Punjab have higher age limits of up to 25. Bihar, Gujarat, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Lakshadweep are dry jurisdictions where alcohol is prohibited or heavily restricted, and Manipur continues to have partial prohibition in certain districts



PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY

Visitors to India will find varied subjects for photography and videography. However, certain formalities and regulations must be adhered to. Unless otherwise stated, the restrictions outlined below apply equally to photography and videography undertaken using smartphones, tablets, cameras, video cameras, or any other image-recording devices.

Special permission from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) may be required for the use of tripods, professional cameras, video cameras, stabilisers, artificial lighting, microphones, or other professional recording equipment at monuments and protected sites. Additional permissions is also required for photography or videography intended for commercial, promotional, documentary, broadcast, publicity, or other professional purposes.

Photography and videography are prohibited in certain restricted areas. Taking photographs or recording video footage at airports, railway stations, bridges, military installations, from aircraft is prohibited. Certain monuments, museums, religious sites, and government-controlled locations may also impose specific restrictions or levy fees in relation to photography and / or videography.

Any costs incurred in connection with photography or videography shall be borne by you. Your guide will advise you of any known camera and filming-related fees, permissions, and local regulations applicable to the destinations included in your itinerary. It is always advisable to seek permission before photographing or filming individuals.

Drone Usage: Foreign nationals are not currently permitted to operate drones in India. Those wishing to obtain aerial photographs or video footage must lease a drone and engage the services of a certified Indian professional.

Note: The above information is intended as general guidance only. Local regulations may vary, and guests are responsible for complying with all applicable rules and obtaining any required permissions.



SHOPPING

Extraordinary patience, talent, and imagination go into the making of Indian products, whether dazzling silks, hand-knotted carpets, bronze statues of Hindu Gods and Goddesses, jewellery, shoes or sandals, handbags, men's and women's clothing, musical instruments, or perfumes. The list is inexhaustible, and the prices are reasonable. Each region of the subcontinent has its own specialties. The bazaars are the places to find the best bargains, but one must be prepared to haggle at some places. It is important to remember that if the shop or emporium undertakes to export purchased goods, the package may invariably take much longer to reach, than as intimated at the time of purchase.

It is forbidden to export recognized antiques over 100 years old. It is advisable to keep the sales receipts to show them to the Customs Officers when requested.

We have conducted extensive research to find authorised sellers (and makers) of handicraft items all over the country. We maintain a list of such shops per city. During or after sightseeing tours, our guides and escorts might suggest you visit such a shop if any particular souvenir or general shopping interests you. This suggestion should not be construed as an insistence to visit such an enterprise, as it is entirely your discretion to choose whether or not to visit the designated shop in any city.



TRAIN TRAVEL

Indian trains range from passenger trains that stop at all stations to mail / express / superfast trains that stop only at major stations. In addition to these, there are specialised trains - Vande Bharat Express, Rajdhani Express, Duronto Express, Shatabdi Express, and Jan Shatabdi Express - that run faster and provide better facilities.

We recommend that you travel in trains that have air-conditioned coaches for convenience and comfort. Air-conditioned coaches have three classes: 3 Tier AC, 2 Tier AC, and 1st Class AC (suitable for overnight travel). You can travel in AC Chair Car or Executive Class for travel that commences and terminates on the same day, available in trains such as Vande Bharat Express, Shatabdi Express, Jan-Shatabdi Express, and Gatiman Express.

A new concept called 'Vistadome Coaches' has been introduced by Indian Railways on some of the trains that run on scenic routes. These tourist-friendly coaches are equipped with special features like large glass windows on the sides, glass window panels on top, fully rotatable seats, better air-conditioning, a GPS-based information system, and even an Observation Lounge at the rear section of the coach with a large glass window for an unhindered view of the beautiful scenery outside. Vistadome coaches are currently attached to trains that operate on day-return routes.

Since railway stations are extremely crowded, and you may feel disoriented when you disembark at the end of a train journey, we request you to wait at the disembarkation point where your train carriage comes to a halt until our staff member or local representative establishes contact with you. This will typically happen within 5 minutes of your alighting from the train.

AIR TRAVEL

India has an extensive domestic aviation network, providing good connectivity between major cities and regional destinations. For domestic flights, arriving at the airport around two hours before departure is recommended, particularly at larger airports or during busy periods. For international flights, it is advisable to allow at least an additional hour for check-in, security and immigration formalities. Passport and visa must be kept readily accessible.

Web check-in is generally available, and guests travelling with checked baggage can complete baggage drop at the airport before airline counter closure. Airlines may offer seats with additional legroom (subject to availability in economy class on most sectors as a paid upgrade, with selection often available during web check-in.

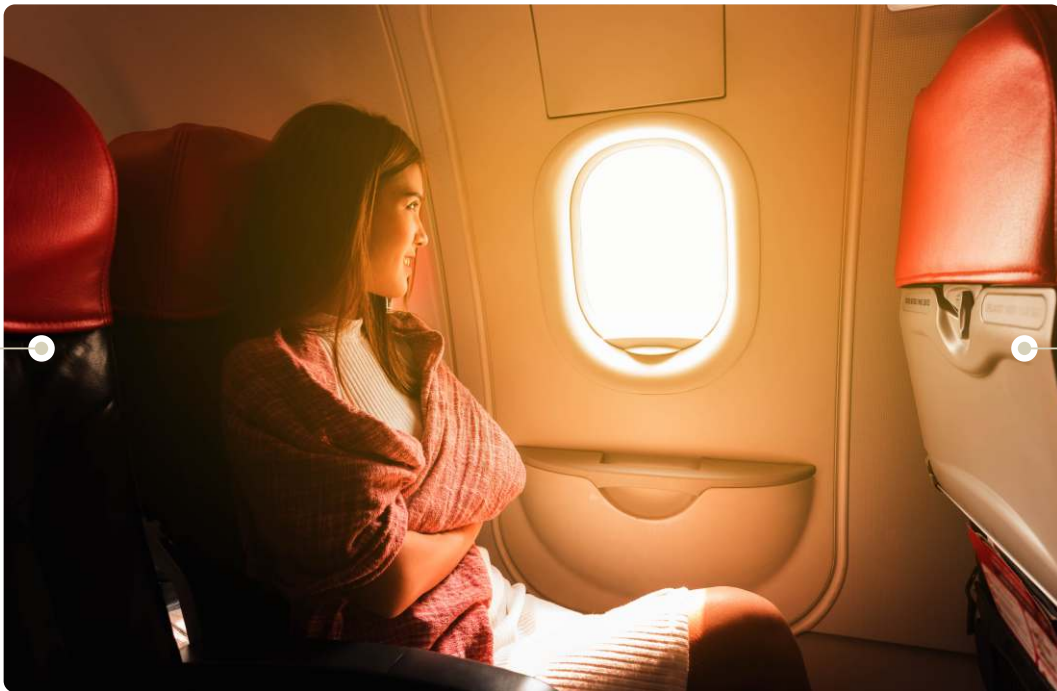
FREE BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Airlines have adopted stricter policies in enforcing number of bags, their sizes, and weight limits. Luggage exceeding maximum restrictions may require expensive overage fees, frustrating and hurried re-packing at the ticket counter, or even risk being left behind.

Most domestic carriers in India permit only one piece of cabin baggage not exceeding 7 kg (15 lbs) in economy class. Small handbags/purses may be allowed as well.

However, airlines revise luggage policies frequently and often without notice, so it is advisable to check with the airlines beforehand. Our organisation cannot be held liable for variance in the weight limits listed by airlines. It is also important to note that restrictions for luggage number, weight, and size may vary depending on the class of service you select.

First and Business Class ticket holders may have different restrictions than Economy Class travellers. Additional baggage allowance may also be purchased in line with the airline's policy and applicable charges.



CHECKED IN LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE FOR ECONOMY CLASS

Air India (Domestic Flights)

Economy Class (Value / Classic / Flex): 15 Kg (33 lb) / 20 Kg (44 lb) / 25 Kg (55 lb)

Premium Economy class (Value / Flex): 15 Kg (33 lb) / 25 Kg (55 lb)

Air India Express

Xpress Lite Fare: Does not include complimentary check-in baggage allowance

All other Fares: 15 Kg (33 lb)

Akasa Air

15 Kgs (33 lbs)

Indigo

15 Kgs (33 lbs)

SpiceJet

15 Kgs (33 lbs)



TRAVELING IN INDIA WITH KIDS

Travelling with kids can be both challenging as well as rewarding. Indians are very tolerant of children so you can take them almost anywhere without restriction, and they always help break the ice with the strangers.

For babies, nappies (diapers) are available in most large towns at similar prices to the West, but it's worth taking an additional pack in case of emergencies, and bringing sachets of Calpol or similar, which aren't readily available in India. And if your baby is on supplement, it might be an idea to bring some of that; you can certainly get it in India, but it may not be of the same brand/composition that you use for your child.

Always travel with a basic medical kit, including Imodium for stomach upsets. Ensure to bring your own prescription medicines along with a copy of your prescription.

To avoid stomach upsets, discourage your child from consuming uncooked food, i.e. raw salads and cut fruits, and ensure that you stick to bottled water for drinking purposes. Altitude sickness can occur in certain regions of high altitude, so let their bodies adjust to the elevation slowly, and keep them hydrated. Coconut water is brilliant for rehydrating during extreme heat. If they do get dehydrated through illness or heat, the 1 tsp salt / 8 tsp sugar in 1 litre of water combo is an effective Indian way of healing!

Vehicles in India don't have child seats but the same can be arranged on a prior request for the families travelling with the kids.

AIRPORT DEPARTURE TAX

The airport departure tax is included in your international tickets and does not need to be paid at the airport.

WHAT TO PACK

Here is a handy checklist based on recommendations already covered in this document:-

- Passport, visa/e-visa printouts, and photocopies of these along with insurance, driving licence and any special permits (kept separately from originals)
- Photocopies of flight tickets, hotel confirmations and itinerary
- Travel insurance details and emergency contact information
- Air Suvidha health declaration documents
- Personal medications, including the prescription
- Sun and weather protection: mosquito repellent, sunscreen, lip balm, hand sanitiser, wide-brim hat or cap, sunglasses, and a compact umbrella for light rain
- Light scarf or shawl (useful for places of worship and sun protection)
- Comfortable walking shoes and a spare pair of footwear or sandals
- Small day backpack for sightseeing
- Money belt or fanny pack for passport, phone and cash
- Credit/debit cards and a small amount of local currency
- Charging essentials: mobile phone charger, power bank, cables, universal travel adapter and voltage converter (220V, 50Hz)
- Child-specific essentials (if relevant)

Please see the link below to learn how to be a responsible traveller and contribute towards a sustainable future. [Tips to be a Responsible Traveller](#)



REFERENCE READING

MEMOIR

A Princess Remembers – Gayatri Devi

The Story of My Experiments with Truth – M. K. Gandhi

HISTORY

Freedom at Midnight – Lapierre and Collins

The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World – William Dalrymple

The House of Jaipur – John Zubrzycki

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LITERATURE, CULTURE & POLITICS

Tomb of Sand - Geetanjali Shree - translated by Daisy Rockwell
 A Suitable Boy - Vikram Seth
 God of Small Things - Arundhati Roy
 The Palace of Illusions - Chitra Banerjee Devikar
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 India A Million Mutinies Today - V.S. Naipaul
 The Glass Palace - Amitava Gosh
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TRAVELOGUE

City of Djinns / Nine Lives - William Dalrymple
 Butter Chicken in Ludhiana: Travels in Small Town India - Pankaj Mishra
 Holy Cow - Sarah Macdonald

USEFUL PHRASES IN HINDI

English » Hindi
 Hi or Hello » Namaste
 Please » Kripaya
 Thank You » Shukhriya / Dhanyavaad
 Yes » Haan
 No » Nahin
 Where can I find » Kahan milenge
 I want water » Mujhe paani chahiye
 I want a ticket » Mujhe ticket chahiye
 Where is the toilet » bathroom kahan hai
 Are you open tomorrow » Aap kal khule hain?
 Is this very far » Kya ye bahut door hai
 How much is this » Ye kitne ka hai
 This is too expensive » Ye bahut mehenga hai
 Make this price less » Bhaav kam karo
 How are you? » Aap kaise hain?
 Sorry » Maaf kijiye
 Ok » Theek hai
 What? » Kya?
 Where? » Kahan?
 How? » Kaise?
 When? » Kab?
 Who? » Kaun?
 Why? » Kyon?
 I don't understand » Mai samjha nahi
 Tell me the way please » Kripya raasta bataiye
 What is your name? » Aapka naam kya hai?
 My name is » Mera naam ...
 Right » Dahine
 Left » Bayen
 One » Ek
 Two » Do
 Three » Teen
 Four » Chaar
 Five » Paanch
 Six » Chah
 Seven » Saat
 Eight » Aath
 Nine » Naun
 Ten » Das
 One hundred » Ek sau
 Two hundred » Do sau
 One Thousand » Ek hazaar
 One Lakh » Ek Laakh



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