

India In-sight



. **WHY SHOULD I VISIT INDIA?**

Usually we answer this question in four parts:

Affordability – India is considered one of the top 15 most affordable destinations in the world.

People – Indians are very friendly and enjoy engaging with foreigners.

Ease of Communication – Most Indians can speak at least conversational English and internet/Wi-Fi/cell service is widely available.

Something for Everyone – India offers history, culture, architecture, adventure, Yoga, Ayurveda, cuisine, beaches, Himalayas, wildlife, backwaters, shopping, festivals, music, dancing, religion and spirituality – just to name a few!

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT INDIA?

The finest period to visit India depends on where you desire to go and what you desire to do as India has a diverse geographical region. The southern zones are the good destinations in the winter months (November to March), as temperatures are mild and game viewing in the national parks will be the best options. Comparatively winter temperatures in the north may become harsh, but this is an excellent time for bird watching, as the migrant species arrive in this period. Summer weather (April to June) in the south is mild and this is the perfect time for beach holiday or cultural tours in this region. Whereas in the north region, summers are an excellent time to visit the Himalayas. Although the temperature will be high, summer is considered a good time for game viewing.

. WHAT SHOULD I PACK?

- It all depends on your destination and season of travel. Much of India has a patchy climate: warmer in the days and cooler in the evenings. A light jacket or layering is best to accommodate the varying temperatures. Also, we suggest shoes that are comfortable for walking, including sandals and tennis shoes. A head cover may be required for women and men at certain sacred sites and places of worship.

DO I NEED A VISA TO TRAVEL?

Everyone except nationals of Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal needs a visa to visit India. This must be obtained before arrival and we recommend that you contact your local Indian embassy or consulate when planning your trip.

WHAT CLOTHING SHOULD I PACK TO TRAVEL INDIA?

In the hot Indian summers we recommend light cotton tops, shorts and trousers. If you are travelling to any of India's national parks, remember to pack some long-sleeved cotton tops for game drives. In the cold winter months, temperature may drop drastically, therefore warm clothing would be essential. As Indian landscape is diverse we advise to include the clothes by taking care of the weather and temperature of the area on the particular season. Besides, when visiting religious monuments and shrines you may need to dress formally, so both men and women should pack some long skirts and pants.

WHAT IS THE CURRENCY USED IN INDIA AND WHERE CAN I EXCHANGE MONEY?

The Indian currency is the rupee, which is made of 100 paisa. Major currencies such as US dollars, British pounds and Euros are easily exchanged throughout India. Most international airports of the country have the money exchange counters, and also some selected larger hotels and resorts have this facility to their customer.

WHAT KIND OF FOOD WILL I BE ABLE TO EAT IN INDIA?

Indian cuisine has several variations, with each region famous for its own techniques, ingredients and spices. In northern regions, meat dishes are very popular, which are usually made with chicken, mutton or lamb whereas in southern part vegetarian cuisine is most favored. In addition, seafood is also readily available, particularly at the coast. While Indian cuisine tends to be spicy, most restaurants will gladly prepare a milder variation of the meals on the request of their customer. Almost all restaurants offer the western dishes in most towns and cities and large centres such as Delhi and Mumbai serve a wide selection of cuisine from Indian to Mediterranean and Chinese to even Mexican.

IS THE TAP WATER SAFE TO DRINK IN INDIA?

It's best to avoid drinking the tap water. Bottled water is easily available, but it's a good idea to check that the seal on the bottle is undamaged or not before you purchase it. In every area for the tourists packed bottled water is recommended. Though, local brands are also available but it's recommended to use the some popular and major brands like Bisleri, Aqua 100 and Kinley to save you from the unwelcomed problem.

IS IT GOOD ENOUGH TO TAKE PHOTOS EVERYWHERE IN INDIA?

Basically taking snaps of some scenario won't reward any problem but when taking photos of anyone or any places, especially of women it is advised to take permission prior actually taking. Always grant for request before taking photos at a religious site or ceremony, or of people bathing on the river banks. It is prohibited to photograph military installations, which can include some the train stations, bridges and airports also.

IS THERE ANYTHING I NEED TO KNOW ON VISITING RELIGIOUS SITES?

Remember to dress on a little more conservatively while planning to visit religious sites. Also, you may need to take off your shoes or remove all the leather items while entering any temples and monasteries. But you need not to worry as our guide will alert you when such situation arises. Moreover, confirm that photography is allowed or not before taking any snaps. Keep in mind that some sites might not admit women or might be reserved for followers of that faith.