

TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

Ain't no Mountain High Enough INTRODUCTION

This document contains essential information that you need to prepare for, as well as information you will need during your holiday with Geckos.

We ask that you read it carefully and **that you take the document with you on your holiday**. It contains information on visas, vaccinations, spending money, etc, as well as a detailed, day by day itinerary of your trip.

YOUR TRIP

NUTS AND BOLTS

- Gecko's expert English-speaking local tour guides throughout the tour, and local site guides at some sites.
- Sightseeing (including entrance fees where applicable): Kathmandu including Bodhnath Stupa and Pashupatinath; Lumbini including temple complexes, Ashoka Pillar and Maya Devi Temple; Varanasi's back lanes and crowded alleyways; Agra including the Taj Mahal; Jaipur including Amber Fort, Old Bazaar and The Palace of the Winds; Jodhpur including Meharangarh Fort and Sardar Market; Udaipur including City Palace and Jagdish Temple; and Delhi including Chandni Chowk and Connaught Place.
- Morning boat ride on the Ganges to witness the rituals on the ghats.
- Royal Chitwan National Park lodge accommodation and entrance fees.
- Off-the-beaten-track experience in Tordi Garh village walk, visit to ruined temples and a fortress, and a jeep safari.
- Overnight accommodation in 16th Century Tordi Palace.
- Stay at Nimaj Bagh and a village walk to meet the locals.
- Free time to explore Kathmandu, Chitwan National Park, Agra, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur and Delhi.
- Overnight train from Varanasi to Agra and Udaipur to Delhi. Accommodation in air-conditioned sleeper class with three-tier sleeping berths (two sheets, a blanket and a pillow provided per person).

SUMMARY OF ACCOMMODATION, TRANSPORT & MEALS

TRANSPORT

- Boat
- Jeep
- · Local bus
- · Sleeper train
- Taxi

ACCOMMODATION

- 2 nights Sleeper train
- · 2 nights Jungle lodge
- 14 nights Hotels/guesthouses

NOT INCLUDED

International flights, arrival and departure transfers, airport/departure taxes, visas, pre or post tour accommodation, meals, optional tours sightseeing or activities during free time, transfers outside of the tour program, travel insurance, tips and items of a personal nature, laundry and flights unless specified. Some places that we visit charge additional fees if you are entering with a camera or camcorder - your city guide will advise on these and they can be paid for locally.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

We have chosen a selection of some great optional activities to enhance your travel experience. You will need to cover any additional costs yourself. The below list is not exhaustive and should be used as a guide only. Prices are approximate and are for entrance only and don't include transport to and from the sites or local guides unless indicated. All activities are subject to availability and it may not be possible to do all the activities listed in the time available at each destination.

Where activities are considered medium or high risk, we work with operators whose safety and credentials we have sighted and assessed. This means that it is possible that you may find the same activity cheaper with another operator on the ground, however we cannot vouch for the safety or quality of that operator. Activities not listed below have not been assessed by us and as such our staff and leaders are unable to assist you with booking these activities. The decision to partake in any activity not listed is at your own discretion and risk.

- Agra Agra Fort entrance US\$8
- Chitwan Canoe Trip US\$11 (per person)
- Chitwan Jeep Safari
 US\$18 (per person)
- Chitwan Park Entrance Fee US\$18 / NRS 1500
- Delhi Full day tour of the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort (from Delhi)
 US\$170/entrance fees US\$18 & US\$8
- Delhi Half-day sightseeing tour of New Delhi including India Gate, Raj Ghat, President's Palace, Humayun's Tomb & Qutab Minar

US\$50 per car / US\$20 entrance fee

· Delhi - Red Fort Entrance

US\$5

- · Delhi Sound and Light Show
 - **US\$40** per car/entrance US\$5
- Jaipur Half-day sightseeing tour of city palace, Jantar Mantar, Albert Hall, gardens & temple US\$50 per car/entrances US\$15.
- · Jaipur Tour of Nahargarh Fort

US\$40 per car/entrance US\$3.

- Jodhpur Bishnoi safari a visit to a traditional village.
 - US\$50 per jeep
- Jodphur Half-day sightseeing of Fort, Jaswant Thada & Umaid Bhawan Palace US\$30 per car/entrance US\$10
- · Kathmandu Bhaktapur entrance

US\$15

- Kathmandu Half Day tour to Bhaktapur & Patan
 - US\$40 approx
- · Kathmandu Mt Everest scenic flight including transfers

approx US\$185

· Kathmandu - Patan entrance

US\$7

- Kathmandu Taxi to Bodnath Stupa
- · Kathmandu Taxi to Pashupatinath
- Namche Sherpa House Museum

US\$2 (small donation also appreciated)

- · Pokhara Boat ride Phewa Lake
 - \$8 per person
- Tordi Garh Half day tour of village and surrounding countryside

US\$10-15 depending on number of participants

- · Udaipur Boat ride on Lake
 - US\$16 per person duration 1 hour
- Udaipur Half-day sightseeing tour of Saheliyon ki Bari, Royal Cenotaphs and crystal gallery **US\$45** per car/entrance **US\$2**
- · Varanasi Half-day city tour of Varanasi

US\$40 per car

Varanasi - Half-day tour of Sarnath

US\$40 per car/entrance US\$4

PREPARING TO TRAVEL

VISAS AND PERMITS

Nepal

Visas are the responsibility of the individual traveller. The visa requirements for your trip vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. As a general rule most countries expect that you will have at least 6 months' validity on your passport. On arrival visitors may be asked to present return tickets and evidence of means to cover your intended stay. We keep the following information up to date as much as possible, but rules do change - it's important that you check for yourself. Residents from other countries must consult the relevant embassies or your travel agent. All foreign nationals (except Indians) require a visa to enter Nepal. Visas are obtainable from embassies

abroad, the International airport, or on arrival at the India / Nepal border. Getting a visa at the airport can sometimes take time due to long queues. There have been instances when passengers were asked to show return flight tickets. You will also need to provide two passport photos and the following approximate fees in US dollars cash only: - Multi entry visa valid for 15 days - US\$25 - Multi entry visa valid for 30 days - US\$40 - Multi entry visa valid for 90 days - US\$100 Please note if you are staying in Nepal for less than 24 hours while in transit a transit visa can be issued on presentation of your international flight ticket, there is a nominal charge of US\$5 and one photo is required. Your visa application form may require you to state the dates on which you enter and exit that country. Please note we suggest you list your date of entry a few days before, and date of exit a few days after, your intended dates in case you encounter any delays or problems en route. To help calculate the exact dates of these crossings we have found the website: www.timeanddate.com to be very useful.

India

Australia: Yes - in advance
Belgium: Yes - in advance
Canada: Yes - in advance
Germany: Yes - in advance
Ireland: Yes - in advance
Netherlands: Yes - in advance

New Zealand: Yes - in advance OR on arrival*

South Africa: Yes - in advance Switzerland: Yes - in advance United Kingdom: Yes - in advance

USA: Yes - in advance

There is NO visa on arrival in India for most nationalities. Indian visas can NOT be obtained in Nepal. Tourist visas are available in Single and Multiple Entry. Be sure to check the date you require a visa from and the length of time you will need to cover, especially if you change countries during your trip.

*Visa on arrival is available for select nationalities, including New Zealanders provided that specific criteria can be met. See link below for more information. <a href="http://india.gov.in/spotlight/encouraging-inbound-tourism-t

GOVERNMENT TRAVEL ADVICE

Many governments publish up-to-date travel advice for countries around the world. Information is gleaned from both local and international sources as well as 'friendly' governments, and the notices are often on the cautious side. Sometimes there will be conflicting information. For example, the Australian, UK and Canadian governments may agree on the nature of the advice; however, frequently they do not. And sometimes the views expressed by a particular government can be coloured by political considerations. We will monitor these travel advisories closely and may alter itineraries or cancel trips as a result. However, it is also your responsibility to stay informed and form a balanced view. We recommend that you visit the websites or contact the departments listed below. Unless otherwise stated, it is not normally the intention of the relevant government travel advice to dissuade you from travelling. Rather, it is to inform you of where and when you should exercise caution to avoid problems. Please also note that, as a responsible tour operator, we maintain constant links with our ground operators and your safety - at all times - is our paramount concern. You can check your government's latest travel advice at one of the links below:

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

<u>UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office</u>

<u>Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade</u>

<u>U.S. Department of State New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade</u>

BORDER CROSSING

Border Crossing

The scheduled border crossing days are as follows:

Day 6 Exit Nepal at **Belahiya**, enter India at **Sanauli**

MEDICAL PREPARATION

We strongly recommend you visit your doctor to discuss health requirements for your trip. They will advise you regarding the appropriate inoculations. In some places anti-malaria medication may also be required. Some vaccines need to be administered a few weeks before departure so allow yourself plenty of time. Obtain a certificate of vaccination and carry this with you on this trip. A dental check up is also highly recommended

VACCINATIONS

Vaccinations may be required or recommended for this trip so you should consult with your travel doctor to obtain the latest up-to-date information. It is your responsibility to ensure that you obtain any vaccinations or preventative medicines for the countries you are visiting — or any which may be required by your home country upon your return.

For travellers from Australia and New Zealand, we recommend the Travel Doctor-TMVC clinics (see www.traveldoctor.com.au or phone 1300 658 844 for an appointment in Australia). Travellers from countries other than Australia and New Zealand should contact similar organisations or their travel doctor for advice. General health and vaccination information is available to all travellers at www.traveldoctor.com.au/travelreport. Some vaccines require more than one dose, so arrange for your visit at least 4-6 weeks before you travel.

COPIES OF KEY DOCUMENTS

We recommend that you photocopy the main pages of your passport, your airline ticket, itinerary, insurance policy, traveller's cheques and credit card. Keep one set of photocopies with you, separate from the originals. Leave one set of copies at home with family or friends. It is also worth taking some extra passport photos with you in case of additional visas, permits or other unforeseen paperwork.

FITNESS

No particular level of fitness is required for this holiday. You need only to be in good health. The camel trek in western Rajasthan does not require any great physical exertion; however the trotting momentum of the camels can cause some discomfort after a few hours!

WHAT TO TAKE

GENERAL PACKING LIST

Remember - the lighter you travel the better! A soft-sided duffel or sausage bag is the ideal form of luggage. It is recommended that you keep your luggage weight around 15kg and certainly no more than 20kg. A small or medium-sized backpack (45-50 litres) is another good option, but preferably one without a frame.

When you pack your clothing, consider the climate at the time of year you are travelling and any specific requirements for your trip as at certain times of the year some of the items suggested in the list that follow may not be necessary. Laundry facilities are available in most destinations.

Many people are surprised by how cold it gets in north India in December and January. The air flows down from the snow-capped mountain ranges to the north and can bet very chilly. It can get particularly cold at night, so it's important that if you're travelling around that time that you pack a warm jacket.

Below is a list of equipment and documentation that we suggest you take with you. Please use this checklist as a guide when packing for your holiday.

Travel documents: passport, visa (if required), travel insurance, air tickets or e-ticket receipts, Trip Notes

Photocopy of main passport pages, visa (if required), travel insurance and air tickets

Spare passport photos

Money: cash/credit card/EFTPOS card

Money belt

Small padlocks

Metal chain and padlock to secure luggage on overnight trains – additional precaution

Small first-aid kit

Daypack for use on day or overnight excursions

Watch/alarm clock and torch/flashlight (and spare batteries)

Electrical adapter plug

Toiletries/roll of toilet paper/travel wipes

Insect repellent

Sunscreen, lip balm, sunhat and sunglasses

Earplugs and eye mask (for light sleepers)

Extra pair of prescription glasses (if required)

2 strong plastic garbage bags (for laundry and in case of rain)

Refillable water bottle

Phrase book

Warm clothes - when travelling in cooler climates

Wind and waterproof jacket

Comfortable and sturdy walking shoes with good walking socks

Camera and spare film (or recharge for digital cameras)

Binoculars

MEDICAL KIT

It is a good idea to take a small medical kit with you, and you should consider packing the following items:

Antibiotics, Lip-balm, moisturiser, sunscreen, headache tablets, antiseptic (e.g. Betadine), antidiarrhoea tablets (for changes in diet and water), laxatives, band-aids/moleskin/dressing strips for blisters, small scissors/tweezers. Note that moleskin is particularly good for blisters and can be obtained from any pharmacy.

It is also recommended to carry a letter from your doctor explaining any less common prescribed medications that you may be carrying.

Diarrhoea Stomach upsets are not uncommon when travelling through new destinations (usually a 24 - 48 hour 'bug') and this may cause diarrhoea, leading to dehydration. Should you develop a stomach upset you should eat only in moderation and drink plenty of fluids. It is a good idea to carry a couple of sachets of rehydrants with you (such as Gastrolite). We also suggest that you carry one of the common anti-diarrhoea tablets such as Imodium.

Sunstroke It can be quite easy to get sun burnt when you are not accustomed to the sun in new climates. You should take sensible precautions such as wearing a hat and using a good UV sunscreen. Finally, drink plenty of fluids - preferably water.

Water In general, water is not safe to drink in the areas through which we travel. Bottled Water is

widely available and most travellers prefer to drink this. Your guide can assist you in regards to the relative safety of tap water and the availability of bottled water on each tour. When walking, or in hot conditions, you must make a conscious effort to maintain your hydration, drinking as much water/tea as possible to offset fluid loss.

MONEY MATTERS

CURRENCY

Nepal

The official currency of Nepal is the Nepali Rupee (NPR).

India

The official currency of India is the Indian Rupee (INR).

EXCHANGE RATES

Check out www.xe.com for current exchange rates.

ACCESSING MONEY

Nepal

ATMs can only be found in Kathmandu, Pokhara and Bhaktapur. Money exchange facilities are available in Kathmandu, Pokhara, Chitwan (only outside the park) and Bhaktapur.

The Government of Nepal has banned the import, export and use of 500 and 1000 Indian rupee notes in Nepal. You should ensure you are not carrying these notes on arrival in Nepal as they will be confiscated and you may be fined.

While travellers' cheques have security advantages exchanging them can be a lengthy process, commissions can be high (up to 10%) and they can be difficult to change in rural areas, on weekends and public holidays. If you choose to bring travellers' cheques, make sure they are a major brand and major currency.

Please note that most establishments in Asia will not accept foreign currency notes that are old, torn or faded and they can be very difficult to exchange or extra fees added when exchanging at banks. Please ensure that you have new, clean notes.

India

The most convenient and cheapest way to obtain local currency in from an Automated Teller Machine (ATM), which are readily available in most towns.

Foreign currency notes that are old, torn or faded can be very difficult to exchange, so please bring clean bills, and small denominations are most useful.

While traveller's cheques have security advantages exchanging them can be a lengthy process, commissions can be high and they can be difficult to change in rural areas, on weekends and public

holidays. The use of credit cards is restricted mainly to major hotels/establishments.

SPENDING MONEY

How much money? It is impossible to determine exactly how much money you will need. We survey all our customers and the amounts vary enormously. Please take this information in the spirit in which it is given. We recommend you try to take more rather than less, as you can always take the remainder home. In our brochure we have suggested an appropriate allowance for additional meals. This is for FOOD ONLY and does not include drinks and snacks. As a result of customer feedback we recommend you allow a figure of between US\$380 and US\$450 for your additional food AND DRINK/SNACK requirements. Use a higher figure particularly if you are traveling during the hot season, as you will certainly require more fluids. In addition you should carry sufficient funds for extra sightseeing and optional activities. On average people spend approximately US\$100 including the entrance fee for any additional visits to the Taj Mahal. If you decide to take optional excursions using the services of a local guide and a private vehicle, you will need to budget for more. Shopping is a personal thing that, again, varies enormously. On average, people spend between US\$120 and US\$175 on clothing, jewellery and other souvenirs.

AIRPORT TAXES

Nepal

A departure tax of up to NPR200 each way for domestic flights in Nepal is NOT included. Most international departure taxes should be included in your flight ticket - your leader can advise you on the current situation.

India

All departure taxes should be included in your international flight ticket.

TIPPING

Over the years we have found that many of our travellers find the need for tipping to be both tiresome and embarrassing, especially if they don't have the correct small change. To overcome this, we have established a tipping kitty system. At your group meeting, your tour leader may discuss the idea of running a group tipping kitty, whereby everybody contributes an equal amount and then your tour leader pays the tips while keeping a running record of all monies spent (except restaurant tips). The record can be checked at any time and any money remaining at the end of the tour returned to group members.

If you are happy with the services provided a tip - though not compulsory - is appropriate. While it may not be customary to you, it is of great significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels, inspires excellent service, and is an entrenched feature of the tourism industry across many Intrepid destinations. We recommend that any tips are given to the intended recipient by a member of your group, rather than collected and passed on by the group leader.

The following amounts are based on local considerations and feedback from our past travellers:

Restaurants: Local markets and basic restaurants - round your bill up to the nearest INR20. More upmarket restaurants we suggest 10% to 15% of your bill.

Local guides: Throughout your trip you may at times have a local guide in addition to your leader. We suggest INR100 per day for local guides.

Porters: Throughout your trip you may at times have a porter in addition to your leader. We suggest INR50 per day for porters.

Drivers: You may have a range of drivers on your trip. Some may be with you for a short journey while others may be with you for several days. We would suggest a higher tip for those more involved with the group however a base of INR100 per day is generally appropriate.

Local transport: For a city tour we suggest INR50 per day.

Your Group Leader: You may also consider tipping your leader for outstanding service throughout your trip. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline \$US 2-4 per person, per day can be used. Of course you are free to tip more or less as you see fit, depending on your perception of service quality and the length of your trip. Remember a tip is not compulsory and should only be given when you receive excellent service.

WHILE YOU ARE TRAVELLING

ON ARRIVAL

Please refer to your itinerary for the joining hotel name and address. If you have not pre-booked an arrival transfer you will find taxis available on arrival at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan Airport. Make sure you agree to the price before you set off into town. You can expect to pay between US\$12 and US\$15, depending on the time you arrive.

If you have booked an airport transfer with us, please meet your transfer guide in the arrivals area as you exit from the customs hall. Your transfer guide will be holding a Gecko's sign.

There will be a pre-departure briefing with your tour leader at the hotel later today. Please check the noticeboard in the foyer of the joining hotel for details of this meeting and for any further messages. Please bring your passport and travel insurance documents to the briefing.

HOTEL CHECK IN / CHECK OUT

Generally, your room will be available on Day 1 from around midday. Sometimes it may be available mid-morning but this is in no way guaranteed. If your flight is scheduled to arrive in the early morning you may have to wait until your room becomes available. Alternatively you can book one night's 'pretour accommodation' which will ensure that your room is ready whenever you arrive. Rooms must generally be vacated by 12 noon on your final day unless you have made prior arrangements with the hotel Reception. If you want to keep your room for longer you may have to pay an additional charge. Most hotels have a store-room should you wish to store your luggage after check-out.

PHOTO ETIQUETTE

Please ask first if you want to take someone's photograph. This is just a normal courtesy and if you are refused permission please abide by that person's wishes. At certain ancient sites, and in most museums, photography (video or still) may be forbidden, or may incur an extra charge for camera-use. Do not take photos of buildings, structures and personnel of potential military significance (including airports, bridges, and police stations).

FLEXIBILITY AND PATIENCE

Travelling with us can provide you with some really rewarding travel experiences. Our tours visit countries where travel modes and lifestyles are often not as sophisticated as our own. There is also a laid-back attitude amongst workers and there will often seem to be huge amounts of red tape and bureaucracy when doing the simplest things. You will enjoy your trip much more if you slip into the rhythm of local life and are prepared to take things as they come.

A WORD ON DRUGS

In most countries even the smallest quantity of an illegal substance is considered a very serious offence and can carry lengthy jail terms. Avoid any contact with illegal drugs. Don't put yourself and others at risk and never carry bags or luggage for other people. Any person found to be carrying or using illegal drugs will be asked to leave the trip immediately without the right to any refund.

LOCAL PRICES

India

As a guideline we suggest approximately US\$15 per day if buying all three meals. This will vary greatly depending on where you choose to eat. Market stalls are extremely cheap and it is possible to eat very cheaply. Generally breakfast in the restaurant of your hotel will cost approximately US\$3 and as a guideline lunch and dinner will cost you approximately US\$5-US\$7 in a sit down restaurant. During hot weather you should also make allowance in your budget for drinking water. A one litre bottle of water will cost you approximately US\$1 per bottle.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Internal flights: EU clients please see our safety page for important information regarding internal flights in Nepal.

Local Emergency Contacts In the case of a genuine crisis or emergency Gecko's India office can be reached on +91 1145 006 400 during business hours (9.30am to 6pm) or after hours on +91 9999 916 229. For Gecko's Nepal office please contact +977 9862 852 740 during business hours or +977 9818 287 669

Train and bus travel in Nepal and India is not always easy. Buses and trains are often late and at times they can be overcrowded. A good deal of patience is required to get the most out of your journey. However travelling by road and rail is an excellent opportunity to meet the locals and can be a rewarding experience. Generally, overnight train travel is in air-conditioned sleeper class which offers three-tier sleeping berths. Two sheets a pillow and a blanket are provided but we recommend you bring along a sleeping bag liner for extra comfort and hygiene. Toilet facilities on Indian trains are also quite basic.

Travelling on the roads in Nepal and India is also quite an experience. Road rules are not always followed and traffic in some of the larger cities has to be experienced to be believed. Particular care should be taken when crossing roads.

DAY TO DAY ITINERARY

Ain't no Mountain High Enough

TRIP LENGTH TRIP CODE

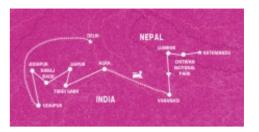
19 days GINI

COUNTRIES VISITED

Nepal, India

START CITY END CITY

Kathmandu Delhi



DAY 1-2: KATHMANDU

Accommodation: Hotel Shakti or similar, Kathmandu

When it comes to whizzing around Kathmandu, auto rickshaws are the only way to go. See the giant Buddhist Stupa at Bodhnath and the city's most sacred Hindu site, Pashupatinath.

Day 1

- If arriving early, perhaps wander down to Durbar Square, the spiritual heart of Kathmandu
- Pre-departure meeting in the evening, and an optional group dinner

Day 2

- · Visit Bodhnath Stupa, one of the biggest Buddhist shrines in the world
- · Stop by the most famous Hindu temple in the country, Pashupatinath
- · Plenty of free time to explore Kathmandu under your own steam

DAY 3-4: CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK

Accommodation: Riverview lodge or similar, Chitwan National Park

Cross the Rapti River to reach our lodge in the village of Sauraha. Take a jungle safari and hopefully spot rhino, tigers and leopards (oh my).

- Catch a morning bus up the rim of the Kathmandu Valley
- Go wildlife spotting for rhinoceros, sloth bear, deer, a range of different bird and perhaps even tigers
- Optional jeep, canoe and walking safaris

DAY 5: LUMBINI

Accommodation: Lumbini Budha Garden or similar, Lumbini

Lumbini was the site of Buddha's birthplace way back in 563BC. See some temples and the Ashoka Pillar.

- · Visit the birthplace of the founder of Buddhism
- · Explore temple complexes constructed by Buddhists from Japan, China and Myanmar
- Get acquainted with the ancient Ashoka Pillar and Maya Devi Temple
- · Sleep overnight in a jungle camp

DAY 6-8: VARANASI

Accommodation: Hotel Surya or similar, Varanasi

One river, thousands of uses: bathing, praying, cremating the dead, laundromat, notorious hangout for The Beatles. You name it, and someone's done it in the Ganges.

- Witness life and death rituals during an early morning Ganges boat cruise
- Take a guided walk through the city's lanes and bustling alleyways
- · Board an overnight sleeper train bound for Agra

DAY 9: AGRA - TAJ MAHAL

Accommodation: Hotel Royal Residency or similar, Agra

Flowers, chocolates, diamonds, mini-breaks - all these gestures will seem lame once she's been to the Taj. You're going to need to think bigger.

- · Visit the mighty Taj Mahal
- · Optional trip to Agra Fort

DAY 10: TORDI GARH

Accommodation: Hotel Tordi Garh or similar, Tordi Garh

This is a little gem of a village. Explore nearby temples and forts and sleep in a 16th century castle. Warning: your hand will get tired from all the waving and your mouth will ache from all the smiling. The locals here are extremely friendly.

- Drive through beautiful countryside to Tordi Garh, a village rarely visited by travellers
- Meet local families and experience local life
- · Visit the markets and the village temple
- Journey to a fortress and ruined temples outside of Tordi
- Spend the night in the palace back at the village

DAY 11-12: JAIPUR

Accommodation: Hotel Mrignayani Palace or similar, Jaipur

The Maharajah's harem was not allowed to be seen, so The Palace of the Winds was built so they could see what was going on outside. It's a big honeycomb-shaped structure, with about 1000 tiny latticed windows for peeking through.

Day 11

· Travel to the crowded and colourful streets Jaipur

- · Take a trip to the medieval Amber Fort
- Visit the Old Bazaar and The Palace of the Winds
- · Free time to do as you please in Jaipur

DAY 13: NIMAJ BAGH

Accommodation: Nimaj Hotel Rawla Bagh or similar, Nimaj

This place has barely changed in centuries and it doesn't get many travellers. It's a real "off the beaten track" experience (slightly off topic, but has anyone actually seen this beaten track?)

- Stay in an orchard run by the nobles of Nimaj
- · Visit surrounding villages and meet Gujjars (cattle breeders) and other communities

DAY 14: JODHPUR

Accommodation: Hotel Indrashan or similar, Jodhpur

Drive to the Blue City of Jodhpur, on the edge of the Thar Desert. Sadar Market is the place for fisherman's pants (handy in India, daggy at home), carpets, incense and tea.

· Visit the Meherangarh Fort and the Sadar Market

DAY 15-17: UDAIPUR

Accommodation: Hotel Mahendra Prakash or similar, Udaipur

Udaipur is often referred to as the Venice of the East. Why? Well here's a hint - it's not because of all the roads. Then it's an overnight train to Delhi. Snorers, you will be named and shamed.

Day 15

Travel to Udaipur, watching southern Rajasthan's scenery unfold

Day 16

- Visit different caste villages around Jodhpur
- · Take a local bus to Udaipur

Day 17

- · Explore the Jagdish Temple and the City Palace
- · Head to Delhi on an overnight sleeper train

DAY 18-19: DELHI

Accommodation: Hotel Perfect or similar, Delhi

By now you've had long enough to accept that in India, cows are more important than you. It's just one of the many weird and wonderful things you'll tell your friends when you get home.

Day 18

- · Explore Chandni Chowk, the old city's market area, as well as Connaught Place
- · Free time to relax or do some sightseeing of your own
- Perhaps visit the Jama Masjid, the Red Fort and the Raj Ghat where Mahatma Gandhi was

Day 19

 The trip ends this morning after breakfast, but Delhi's got plenty more to offer those that wish to stick around

ABOUT THIS PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

The information provided here is given in good faith and has been compiled with all reasonable care. However, things change and some of the information may become out of date. Please ensure that you have the most up-to-date information for your trip. We recommend that you check the trip notes for your tour around one month before departure. If you have any queries, please contact your travel agent or our staff in Australia. We are here to help you!

GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK

Your feedback is important to us and to our tour guides and helps shape the quality of our trips. It tells us what we're doing right, what you believe could be done better and what improvements you feel could help future travellers choose and enjoy Geckos. At the end of your trip we ask that you to take a few minutes of your time to complete our on-line feedback form. Just go to http://www.geckosadventures.com/trip-feedback for our easy to fill out questionnaire. We'd love to hear what you have to say!

LAST UPDATED

24 June 2014

GENERAL CONTACT DETAILS



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Web: Visit Geckos"