

Travel Tools

Introduction

Explore India, a country with one of the world's largest, oldest and evolving civilizations. It is a land of unique history and amazing diversity, filled with rich cultures, traditions, architecture, dress and food. The journey will provide you opportunities to see monuments and the ancient era – a civilization which has interesting facts and history in the roots. You will get to see beautiful spots and find great activities, exotic food and many interests.

What we include

This is a list of included activities and services on your trip. If you choose not to participate in the included activities on your itinerary, the cost will not be refunded.

- Transport to hotel from airport.
- Visit to monuments, as per your travel Itinerary.
- Flights if any, which we will provide you upon your travel request.
- Travel assistance at all places.
- Elephant/Camel/ Boat/Train rides if any, which will be provided to you upon your request.
- Breakfasts in general and all meals for group tours.

You can also choose other optional activities at your own expense.

Spending and shopping

Travelers have different spending ways. Please have assurance and self-care on your own expenditure such as drinking, shopping, participating in optional activities and tipping.

India is a paradise for shopping - you will find souvenirs, handicrafts, antiques, carpets, precious and semi precious stones, gold and silver jewels, spices, woodcrafts, cotton and silk clothes. Every nook and corner of India offers a different product and you can hard-bargain for the prices everywhere except at the shops or emporiums run by the Government.

Tips

It is up to you for the tips – your driver, guide or in restaurant, you can tip them according to your choice. It is just the way to show someone your appreciation and how worthy the service is.

Generally at local markets and basic restaurants – you can round your bill up to some INR 20. For more up-markets or restaurants we suggest tips of 10% to 15% of your bill.

Some important notes

- Please note that from June to September flights do not operate from Khajarahho to Varanasi. In these months we take air-conditioned transport overland taking approximately ten hours. If flights from Khajarahho to Varanasi at other times of year lead to cancellation at short notice, we may also have to go overland at these times.
- The boat ride on the Ganges in Varanasi can be suspended if there is heavy rainfall in the region resulting in high water levels or strong currents making boating dangerous. If the boating is not possible we will make alternative arrangements to visit Sarnath.
- Most of the heritage monuments and almost all the museums are closed on Mondays.
- The Taj Mahal in Agra is closed on Fridays.

Climate and clothing

Tropical country-cotton clothing is recommended. From April to October the climate is hot and dry – rainy and humid in between the months of July and August. Winter months are November to March; this is the best time to visit India. In December, January and February it may get very cold in some parts of the country – you will need woolen clothes. For all information on weather conditions visit <http://in.weather.com>

Accommodation and internet access

Accommodation is based as per itinerary, a complete list of hotels and alternate hotels will be provided to you upon receiving your travel request. India has beautiful heritage, modern and classy hotels that come in price range of every traveler.

Internet service is provided in most of the hotels, but in some you may need to pay a small charge for access.

Food

Different from rest of the cuisine, Indian food bring out rich textures, aroma of spices and flavor. It reflects a perfect blend of various cultures and ages. You will get varied cuisine in different parts of the country – north India, south India, or the northeast India.

Transport

The transport shall remain as promised: air conditioned cars, flights and overnight trains. In some of the sectors, transportation can be very basic.

Package tours

For package tours, we will provide you a detailed itinerary. But for point to point services like transportation, hotel booking or flight booking, we cannot guarantee you a detailed itinerary but on request, we can provide you an overview of the tour.

Emergency funds

We are never off the clock, so you can reach us any time. The travel vouchers will have our mobile/landline numbers and also the nearest Pink Vibgyor branch address.

Visas

Please note that visa is the responsibility of an individual traveler. The visa requirements for your trip vary depending on where you are from and where you are going to. We will give you all the valid documentation which will help you to obtain visa, for example – your travel itinerary on letter head, flight tickets and hotel reservations under your name. Make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months after your return date. 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.

India: all foreign nationals, including children, require a visa to enter India. There are visas on arrival for selected nationals in India - visas must be obtained in advance. Indian visas cannot be obtained in Nepal. Tourist visas are available in single and multiple entries.

Visa for India: <http://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa>

Visa for Nepal: <http://www.immi.gov.np>

Visa for Bhutan: <http://www.mfa.gov.bt/visa>

Visa for Sri Lanka: <http://www.immigration.gov.lk>

Electricity

India has 220 volts/50 cycles of alternating current (AC). 2 or 3 round pin plugs are used.

Time

India lies east of Greenwich and has a time difference of +5.30 hrs in winter and +4.30 hrs in summer.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is recommended and should be taken from your home country and should cover medical assistance, repatriation, cancellation or curtailment of your travel, loss of baggage or valuables etc. All our transport as well as that of the suppliers carry a comprehensive insurance for the vehicle, driver and the passengers - as per the prevailing laws of the country. Claims, if any, will be processed as per the Indian laws in local currency. No claim is possible in case of any damaged/lost or delay of the baggage and is not covered by the insurance either.

Baggage allowance

The baggage allowance is normally 15 to 30 kilos but varies from airline to airline. Normally 1 handbag is allowed. For safety reasons, your suitcase should be locked. All liquids, more than the specified quantity, should be placed in your checked in baggage. All these informations are also mentioned in the air tickets given to you by our company, and we do not guarantee you seats of your preference.

Please bring a photocopy of your passport's main page and the airline ticket if you will require airline reconfirmation at the end of your trip.

Dos & Don'ts

Removing shoes is a must before entering a shrine. Some Temples are off-limits to visitors. People should be properly dressed and should cover their head before entering a Sikh Temple, cover their legs while entering a mosque etc. In most of Hindu and Jain temples leather products like shoes, belts, handbags, camera cases etc. are prohibited in the main shrine and should be left outside or in your bus. Smoking is not permitted in public places as well as in the bus.

Currency

The currency is INDIAN RUPEE (INR) & comes in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1000 Rupees. Coins are in denominations of 50 paisa, one rupee, two rupees, five rupees and ten rupees. We suggest you to carry travelers cheque. All major credit cards etc. are accepted. You may withdraw cash in local currency from ATMs available in all the major cities. You may exchange money either in the hotels or banks/money changers against an official receipt.

Restroom facilities

Most public washroom facilities in India are of the traditional and western style toilets. The washroom facilities in most of your hotels are as you are accustomed to.

Airfares

International or domestic airfares are not included in the cost. The domestic fares are always given apart. Please book your international air tickets directly at your side.

We could purchase the domestic flights for you in India or you could do the same directly. The prices quoted for the domestic flights are regular fares. Please check with us for better instant purchase fares. These fares are available against full pre-payments and are normally much cheaper. After you get in touch with us, we will quote the exact amount of these airfares. **THE AIRFARES ARE NOT GUARANTEED TILL THE TICKETS ARE BOOKED.** These tickets are non refundable in case of any changes or cancellations.

For reservations we need the names of the travelers, passport number, nationality and gender.

Trains

First class & executive class seats are available but limited. Meals are included in certain trains and are available at a nominal cost. You will find sleeping berth for night journeys and normal seating for day journeys.

In first class compartments, there are two or four berths and have a proper door for privacy. No guarantee is assured for getting a two berth or a four berth cabin.

The railways do not allow you to buy all the four berths of a first class cabin if only two of you are traveling. Every empty berth/seat is offered to other wait-listed passengers.

In two tiers, the compartments have four berths in the cabin and two berths in the passage.

In three tiers, the compartments have six berths in the cabin and two berths in the passage.

No refund or compensation can be claimed from Indian Railways in case of any cancellation of train or delay in their departure/arrival or loss of baggage.

For reservations we need full name, gender, date of birth, passport number, and nationality.

The bookings are non-transferable.

Normally the train reservations open 90 days prior to departure.

MOST OF THE TRAINS ARE QUITE FULL AND WE WILL OFFER ALTERNATES

We believe above mentioned information was helpful, if still you face any problems please do not hesitate to contact us.