



FAQ about India

Travel Insurance

It is a requirement for all our travellers to have a comprehensive travel insurance policy with full medical cover. There are a wide variety of policies available and your travel agent will be able to make recommendations.

Visa

You will require a Tourist Visa to travel in India. After you have booked in, we can advise you about the visa application process or you can consult with your travel agent. If you are obtaining a 6 month Tourist Visa (NOT an E-Visa) please remember to allow at least four weeks for your visa to be processed.

Climate

The Indian subcontinent ranges widely in temperature from the Himalayas to the tropical south. November to January is the coolest time. Monsoon season is generally July to September.

Clothing

Wear long-sleeved shirts, always covering the shoulders and décolletage, and long skirts and trousers that sit below the knee. Best to avoid shorts, short dresses, anything particularly tight-fitting, etc. Indian clothing is very comfortable and practical - we will take you shopping for some appropriate outfits, however please come with loose-fitting, comfortable clothing in layers, as we will experience a range of temperatures. Bring comfortable walking shoes that go with most outfits.

Customs

It is considered an insult to 'point' the soles of your feet at others. Feet and shoes are considered unclean and should not touch other people. Shoes are usually left outside homes and temples. The head and ears are sacred. Never pat a child on the head. Do not point your fingers at a sacred object - this is considered rude. Indians point with a jerk of the chin, or with an open hand facing upwards.

Time

There is Western Time and there is Indian Time. Discover the latter and you will learn to develop the quality of patience. Slowness and queues are facts of life.

Food

Vegetarian food is highly recommended. Many western constitutions cannot tolerate too much chilli or spicy food at once (pace yourself!). Be wary of food which that been lying around on street side cafes. If it is freshly cooked in front of you, then that is usually best. Avoid salads that may have been washed with local water. Fruit you can peel is generally safe.

Drink

Bottled water is recommended. Check to see that seals have not been tampered with. Avoid local water and ice at all costs, even in restaurants. High-quality filters are becoming increasingly available: they are a good alternative to generating more plastic waste with water bottles.

**Health**

Check with your local GP about any immunisations and prescriptions that you may need. It is worthwhile planning ahead as some medical treatments can cause side effects.

Money

Use a secure money belt for the bulk of your cash and travel documents.

Before leaving Australia (or your home country), it is useful to exchange some money at your local bank or foreign exchange bureau; Indian Rupees may need to be ordered so plan ahead. However, as you'll be met at the airport, we can facilitate money changing for you. Try to obtain smaller denominations for tips, rickshaw fares, etc.

Telephones/Internet

We have found that International SIM cards purchased in Australia are not reliable. SIM cards in India can be purchased but it is difficult and takes time! We will always have a mobile phone available for to you to call home in any urgency.

Internet and Wi-Fi is available in most hotels and cafes (albeit slow).