

THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

**Dubai and India**

(Updated April 2017)

*Thank you for choosing RITZ TOURS!!!*

Our experienced staff of Dubai & India specialists takes pride in providing you with the very best in service and planning. We offer the best quality tours at the most affordable prices. We hope you will have a wonderful trip!

**PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED THE FOLLOWING TOUR DOCUMENTS:**

1. E-ticket copies of International Airline tickets and US Domestic Tickets (if applicable)
2. Day-by-day Itinerary with Hotel Information and Emergency Contact Phone Numbers
3. Vouchers (if applicable)
4. Ritz Tours Badge
5. Luggage Tag
6. A copy of "India Trips--Things to Know Before You Go"
7. Travel Insurance Policy (if applicable)

Upon arrival in India, please go through Customs and Immigration on your own. After exiting the Customs area, please look for a Ritz Tours representative who will be holding a "Ritz Tours" sign. Please make sure that you wear your Ritz Tours' badge for easy identification.

**AN IMPORTANT NOTE ON TIPPING**

Please note that gratuities are not included in your tour cost. They are customary, and their purpose is to encourage and reward quality service. Our tour conductors, local guides, drivers, hotel porters and other service personnel do their utmost to make your trip smooth and pleasant. Gratuities are a way of showing your appreciation and also constitute a large part of their monthly income. However, tips are NEVER mandatory.

Ritz Tours suggests tipping in the following manner (US dollars):

- ❖ \$10 per person per day to guide
- ❖ \$5 per person per day to local driver

Again, thank you for choosing Ritz Tours as your Partner-in-Travel. We are confident that your trip will be happy and rewarding. If you need further information, please contact your travel agent or Ritz Tours. And please provide your invaluable comments at [www.ritztours.com/feedback](http://www.ritztours.com/feedback) after your trip.

We wish you Bon Voyage!

### **Travel Documentation**

- ❖ Passports must be valid for at least 6 months from the return date of your trip.
- ❖ No entry visa is required for US passport holders visiting the United Arab Emirates for personal travel of 30 days or fewer. US citizens holding valid tourist passports may obtain visitor visas at the port of entry for no fee.
- ❖ For detailed passport and entry requirements, all travelers are advised to visit [www.uae-embassy.org](http://www.uae-embassy.org) to check with their embassy or consulate.
- ❖ A visa is needed for all tourists entering India. Double entry Indian visa is required if you have the extension to other countries and still need to transit flight in India.
- ❖ Prior to departure, please ensure that you have obtained your India entry visa. For detailed passport and entry requirements, all travelers are advised to visit <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html> or check with their embassy or consulate.

### **Health & Medical Matters**

No vaccinations are required for your trip with the exception of persons traveling from or via an infected area. For detailed information about travel vaccinations, please visit: [www.moh.gov.ae/en/](http://www.moh.gov.ae/en/), [http://india.gov.in/overseas/travel\\_advisories.php](http://india.gov.in/overseas/travel_advisories.php). It is recommended that you consult your doctor for existing medical/dental conditions prior to departure. If you are taking prescription medication, please pack in your hand luggage sufficient quantity for the duration of the trip and make sure it is fully labeled. In case of illness during your trip, please immediately notify your tour manager and local guide for assistance.

### **Customs Procedures**

**Dubai:** In addition to personal effects, foreign visitors are allowed to import gifts whose value does not exceed AED3,000, 400 cigarettes, 50 cigars, 500g of tobacco, 4 liters of alcoholic beverages or 2 cartons of beer (passengers must be above 18 years of age), video cameras, foreign currency less than AED40,000. There are no restrictions on importing the following items for personal use: cell phone, radio system, computers or laptops, baby strollers, wheelchairs, portable TV sets, telescopes, portable music equipment. For detailed customs information, please visit [www.dubaicustoms.gov.ae](http://www.dubaicustoms.gov.ae) and [www.dubaiairport.com](http://www.dubaiairport.com).

**India:** In addition to personal effects, foreign visitors are allowed to import 2 liters of alcohol, 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars and any amount of money. It is necessary to fill out a declaration form if the foreign exchange exceeds US\$ 10,000 or its equivalent and /or the aggregate value of foreign currency notes is US\$ 5,000 or its equivalent. There are no restrictions on importing the following items for personal use: a cell phone, camera, and pair of binoculars, and up to five rolls of film. You must complete a special Tourist Baggage Re-Export Form if you are carrying valuables such as a laptop computer, major video equipment, special camera gear, or high-value jewelry.

### **Money Matters**

The unite of Dubai currency is the Arab Emirate Dirham (AED or Dh), which is divided into 100 fils. The Dirhams comes in denominations of 5,10,20,50,100 and 500. Exchange currency at authorized changers only. These are available in all airports, most hotels and large shopping areas.

The unit of Indian currency is the Rupee (INR), which is divided into 100 paise (p) coins. The Rupee comes in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100 and 500. Exchange currency at authorized Forex changers only. These are available in all airports, most hotels and large shopping areas. We suggest you to exchange certain amount in the US before departure.

- ❖ **Credit Cards:** Most credit cards are accepted at a growing number of shops, restaurants and hotels in Dubai and India's major cities.

- ❖ **Banks & ATMs:** All major banks have branches and ATMs in most towns and cities in India. A list of these locations can be found on your bank's official website, but not very convenient.  
As April 2017, the following exchange rates apply: US \$1 = 65.1INR, US\$1 = 3.67AED

## **Baggage**

- ❖ **Ritz Tours welcomes each passenger to bring one suitcase and one carry-on bag. Due to the limited capacity for luggage storage on the vehicle. Ritz Tours does not accept more than one suitcase per person in order to avoid any additional charges for excessive luggage.**

Baggage allowance for international flights may vary by airline and is subject to change at any time. For up to date baggage allowance, please check the airlines' websites at: [www.airindia.in](http://www.airindia.in) and [www.emirates.com](http://www.emirates.com).

- ❖ Air India (AI): International economy class customers can check in two pieces of luggage, up to 50 lbs (23 kg) each. Total dimensions (length + width + height) of both pieces should not exceed 62 inches for each piece. Carry-on luggage is restricted to one piece of luggage not exceeded 17 lbs and the dimensions of 21" x 14" x 8". The checked baggage allowance on all domestic flights is one piece of luggage, up to 44 lbs (20 kg).
- ❖ Air India (AI) or Jet Airways (9W) intra Asia flights: Free baggage allowance for economy class: 15 kg or 33.07 lbs. Carry-on luggage allowance : 7 kg or 15.42 lbs. Extra baggage charge: \$5 per kg or \$5 per 2.24lbs.
- ❖ Emirates: International economy Class customers can check in two pieces of luggage, up to 50 lbs (23 kg) each. Total dimensions (length + width + height) of each piece must not exceed 62 in (158 cm). For Economy passengers with two pieces of luggage, the total combined dimensions of both pieces must not exceed 107 in (273 cm). Carry-on baggage is restricted to one piece of luggage, up to 15 lbs (7 kg) and the dimensions of 22" x 15" x 8". Please check Emirates baggage allowance calculator for restrictions and to find out which applies to you.
- ❖ Emirates: Business class customers can check in two pieces of luggage, up to 70 lbs(32 kgs) each . Economy class customers can check in two pieces of luggage, up to 50lbs (23kg) each. Total dimensions (length+width+height) of each piece must not exceed 62in (158 cm).
- ❖ Emirates carry-on luggage policy: First Class and Business Class customers are permitted two pieces of carry-on baggage: one briefcase plus either one handbag or one garment bag. The briefcase may not exceed 45 x 35 x 20 cm (18 x 14 x 8 in.); the handbag may not exceed 55 x 38 x 20 cm (22 x 15 x 8 in.); the garment bag can be no more than 20 cm (8 in.) thick when folded. The weight of each piece must not exceed 7 kg (15 lbs). Economy Class customers are permitted one (1) piece of carry-on baggage that should not exceed 22 x 15 x 8 inches (55 x 38 x 20 cm) and must weigh no more than 7 kg (15 lbs).  
Note: For customers boarding in India, carry-on baggage may not exceed 115 cm (45 in.) in total dimensions (length + width + height).
- ❖ It is recommended that all checked luggage has a lock (combination locks are recommended) and a luggage tag showing the name and contact information of the owner. **(Please use Ritz Tours tags for easy identification by our airport staff.)**
- ❖ Consider packing one change of clothing, one set of underwear and toiletry in your carry on bag to avoid inconvenience caused by delayed or lost luggage.
- ❖ DO NOT pack medicine, valuables and other personal necessities in checked luggage. Keep them in your carryon bag.
- ❖ Important note: Ritz Tours representatives cannot enter the luggage claim area. Luggage carts are available, free of charge, at all airports. Collect your luggage and exit, our local representatives will be waiting for you outside. All luggage from the group will be collected for transport to your hotel in a separate vehicle.
- ❖ Please consult [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) for USA baggage and carry-on restrictions.

## **Shopping**

Although Ritz Tours' national guides will be happy to assist you with any shopping requirements, Ritz Tours does not assume responsibility for any items purchased at shops while on tour. You are never required to purchase any items while on tour and must be responsible for your own purchases. Any after sales correspondence must be between the passenger and the shop in question.

## **Food & Drinks**

Dubai is a city that offers rare opportunities to experience local and ethnic cuisine from almost every region in the world for those who enjoy good food and a great dining experience. Alcohol is available in hotel restaurants and bars. However, restaurants outside hotels are not permitted to serve alcoholic beverages. It is generally recommended to drink bottled or distilled water.

Indian cuisine differs from region to region. Food in India is spicy, but the waiters can be told to make it less spicy. Each region of India has its own distinctive cuisine. Consumption of uncooked food & vegetables is not advisable. It is advisable to drink only sealed bottled or distilled water.

## **Language**

English is commonly used in all business transactions in Dubai and India. The main spoken languages in India are Hindi and Urdu. The country's official language in Dubai is Arabic.

## **Clothing**

- ❖ We suggest you bring comfortable, casual clothing and good walking shoes for the trip.
- ❖ Check newspaper for weather conditions before you go, and pack accordingly.
- ❖ It is not necessary to bring formal clothing.
- ❖ While there are no strict dress codes, India is a conservative country. When visiting monuments, temples or old parts of any city, it is recommended to wear modest attire (long sleeves and pants). Visitors who visit during the cooler months (November – February) are advised to bring sufficient warm clothing.

### **❖ Special note for Women**

To be respectful of the UAE culture, it is best to remain covered from shoulder at least to the knees. For instance, although t-shirts (preferably with sleeves covering at least upper arm) are fine, spaghetti tops for women may not be appreciated in public areas. Also, very tight and/or low-cut t-shirts are also considered offensive. Females wearing strappy tops may be in for a warning at Dubai shopping malls, or shopping centers. Women do not have to cover their heads, faces and hair with a scarf or something similar when in public, although Muslim women, particularly Gulf Arabs, do cover their hair, faces, heads with scarf for cultural and religious reasons. But, when visiting a Mosque, women have to cover their hair, bodies and legs, although covering the face is not a must. It is best to not to keep the skirt length above the knee level. As skirts get shorter in length, there is higher risk of male attention, police arrest and fine.

When visiting a government office (including visa, driving license, hospital), women are required to dress more conservatively.

In more traditional areas such as villages and souks, markets and such other areas, short skirts are not considered appropriate for women, and long-skirts below knee length are preferred. Western tops with deep neck lines are strictly prohibited.

### **❖ Special note for Men**

Men wearing shorts, although may be considered odd, are unlikely to get into trouble. However, cycling shorts that reveal certain contours or boxer shorts may result in warning from the authorities. Wearing cycling shorts when cycling should be fine.

Sports clothing appropriate for the sport being played is allowed at the sports venue. However, any combinations of t-shirts and shorts are not a problem, even if worn elsewhere on the way from sports location. At the beach, a swimsuit is acceptable.

When visiting a Mosque, men are required to be dressed in long trousers.

T-shirts with offensive slogans or pictures, gestures, or obscene language that might cause religious or cultural offence are not acceptable in Dubai.

## **Time Differentials**

Dubai is based on Standard Time Zone (UTC) which is 4 hours ahead of GMT (Greenwich Mean Time). Dubai is 12 hours ahead of Los Angeles and 9 hours ahead of New York.

The whole of India is based on India Standard Time (IST), which is 5 hours and 30 minutes ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. India is 13.5 hours ahead of Los Angeles and 10.5 hours ahead of New York.

## **Electrical Requirement**

Dubai and India's electrical system operates at 240 volts. You will need a voltage converter if you are carrying a device that does not accept 240 Volts at 50 Hertz. Please bring you own voltage converter and adapter.

## **Foreign Embassies & Missions**

- ❖ For a comprehensive list of foreign and US Embassies in India, please visit:  
[http://india.gov.in/overseas/foreign\\_emb\\_india.php](http://india.gov.in/overseas/foreign_emb_india.php)
- ❖ US Embassy in Dubai, please visit:  
[https://dubai.usconsulate.gov/general\\_application\\_instructions.html](https://dubai.usconsulate.gov/general_application_instructions.html)

## **Weather**

### **Dubai**

Dubai has a sub-tropical , arid climate. Sunny, blue skies can be expected most of the year.. Rainfall is infrequent and irregular, falling mainly in winter. Summer temperatures in July and August can reach highs of around 45°C (113° F) with high humidity, making this the least comfortable time of year to visit in terms of climate. However, Dubai is well geared up for high temperatures, and public transport, shopping malls, hotels, restaurants and visitor attractions are all air conditioned.

City		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dubai	T. Max	75	76	82	90	98	102	106	105	102	95	86	79
	min.	56	58	62	68	74	79	84	84	79	72	64	59

## India:

India is a large country, and there are considerable variations in weather across the country. There are three seasons – winter, summer and monsoon. Winter months (November – February) are bright and pleasant, with snowfall in the northern hills. Temperature is between 40 – 55 degrees in the north, 51-80 degrees in Delhi and 70-90 in the south. Summer time (April – June) is hot in most parts of India with temperature from 80 – 110 degrees. The monsoon reaches different parts of India at different times with a temperature of 80-95 degrees, but rainfall is heavy along the West Coast between July and September, and along the East Coast between mid-October and December. The best time to visit most of the country is between November to February.

### Weather Chart For Major Indian Cities

[ R=Rainfall (mm) ]

City		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Agra	T. Max	73	78	89	100	108	106	95	91	93	93	84	75
	min.	44	50	60	72	81	84	81	79	77	66	54	46
	R.avg.	16	9	11	5	10	60	2	10	26	31	51	23
Delhi	T. max.	70	75	86	97	106	104	95	93	93	95	84	73
	min.	45	50	59	70	81	84	81	79	77	66	54	46
	R.avg.	25	22	17	7	8	65	211	173	150	31	1	5
Khajuraho Bandhavgarh Kanha	T. max.	73	81	91	102	109	106	93	90	90	92	84	77
	min.	45	50	61	72	82	86	81	77	93	64	52	45
	R.avg.	18	7	8	3	9	83	274	259	192	35	2	8
Jaipur	T. max.	72	77	88	99	106	102	93	90	91	91	84	75
	min.	46	52	59	70	79	81	79	75	73	64	54	48
	R.avg.	14	8	9	4	10	54	193	239	90	19	3	4
Jaisalmer Bikaner Mandawa	T. max.	75	82	91	100	108	106	100	97	97	97	88	77
	min.	46	51	63	70	77	81	81	77	77	68	55	48
	R.avg.	2	1	3	1	5	7	89	86	14	1	5	2
Jodhpur	T. max.	77	82	92	100	108	104	97	92	95	97	88	81
	min.	48	54	63	72	81	84	81	77	75	68	57	52
	R.avg.	7	5	2	2	6	31	122	145	47	7	3	1
Mumbai	T. max.	88	90	91	91	91	90	86	84	86	90	91	90
	min.	61	63	68	75	79	79	79	79	79	75	64	55
	R.avg.	0	1	0	0	20	647	945	660	309	117	7	1
Udaipur	T. max.	75	82	90	97	100	97	88	84	88	90	84	78
	min.	46	50	59	68	77	77	75	73	72	66	52	46
	R.avg.	9	4	3	3	5	87	197	207	120	16	6	3
Varanasi	T. max.	73	81	91	102	106	102	91	90	90	90	84	77
	min.	48	52	63	72	81	82	79	79	77	70	55	48
	R.avg.	23	8	14	1	8	102	346	240	261	38	15	2