



INDIA: KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Dear Traveler,

Our experienced staff of 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. International Airline tickets and US Domestic Tickets (if applicable)
(Note: your India domestic flight tickets may not be enclosed in this package. These may be issued locally and given to you by Ritz Tours representatives in India)
2. Your Flight Schedule
3. Day-by-day Itinerary with Hotel Information and Emergency Contact Phone Numbers
4. Vouchers (if applicable)
5. Ritz Tours Badge
6. Luggage Tag
7. A copy of "India Trips--Things to Know Before You Go"
8. Travel Insurance Policy (if applicable)
9. Questionnaire / Feedback Form

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 flag or a 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):

- Groups of 10 or more: \$7 per person per day (to be distributed between drivers & guides)
- Groups of 2-9: \$10 per person per day (to be distributed between drivers & guides)

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.

We wish you Bon Voyage!



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Travel Documentation

- ❖ A passport is required to enter India. Passports must be valid for at least 6 months from the return date of your trip.
- ❖ A visa is needed for all tourists entering 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 <http://www.indianembassy.org/visa.php> or check with their embassy or consulate.

Geography

India is set apart from the rest of Asia by the Himalayas, the highest mountain range on earth. The subcontinent touches three large water bodies and is immediately recognizable on any world map. This thick, roughly triangular peninsula defines the Bay of Bengal to the east, the Arabian sea to the west, and the India Ocean to the south.

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:

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.

Language

English is commonly used in all business transactions and India has the world's second largest English-speaking base. The main spoken languages are Hindi and Urdu.

India Customs Procedures

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 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.

- ❖ **Credit Cards:** Most credit cards are accepted at a growing number of shops, restaurants and hotels in 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.

As of November 2010, the following exchange rates apply: US \$1 = 45.40 INR

Food & Drinks

Fine meals as are included in India as specified in your itinerary. 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.



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Baggage

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.emirates.com and www.airindia.in.

- ❖ Emirates: 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".
- ❖ Air India: 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 should not exceed 62 inches. Carry-on luggage is restricted to one piece of luggage not exceeding 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).
- ❖ 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 and toiletries 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 carry on bag.
- ❖ Important note: Ritz Tours representatives cannot enter the luggage claim area. 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 for USA baggage and carry-on restrictions.

Clothing

We suggest you bring comfortable, casual clothing and good walking shoes for the trip. Check the local 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.

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.

Time Differentials

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

Staying in Touch

While it is possible to make international phone calls from your hotel room, the charge can be especially high. It is always cheaper and safer to use the International Dialing Service (public payphones), purchase international calling cards or prepaid SIM cards (requires a SIM-unlocked GSM international cell phone). The International Dialing Code for India is +91.



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Electrical Requirements

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 your own voltage converter and adapter.

Photography

If you are taking photographs of local people, always ask their permission beforehand. Your guide can assist you in this. Do not take photographs of military installations or airports. It is advisable to carry your camera in a dust-proof bag. Photography or camera fees are applicable at most sights and museums; your guide can give you details of the latest charges. If you are using film, we suggest bringing an adequate amount before going on tour and if you use a digital camera, don't forget to bring additional memory cards.

Tourist Offices in India & Abroad

Visit <http://www.incredibleindia.org> to locate the India Tourism offices within India and abroad.

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
- ❖ For a comprehensive list of foreign missions in India, please visit:
<http://india.gov.in/overseas/embassies.php>



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India: Weather

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 cool and bright, with snowfall in the northern hills. Summer time (April – June) is hot in most parts of India. The monsoon reaches different parts of India at different times, but rainfall is heavy along the West Coast between June 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



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Useful Hindi Phrases

English Phrase	Hindi Translation
Hello/ Goodbye	Namaskar / Namaste
How are you?	Aap kaise hain?
I am fine	Main theek hoon
Please	Kripya
Thank you	Shukriya/ Dhanyavaad
Yes	Haan
No	Nahi
OK/Fine/Good	Accha
How much?	Kitna
How many?	Kitne
What is your name?	Aapka naam Kya hai?
My name is ...	Mera naam ... hai
Where are you from?	Aap kaha se hai?
I'm from ...	Main ___ se hu
I'm sorry/ pardon me	Maaf kijiye
Do you speak English?	Aapko angrezi aati hai?
I don't speak Hindi.	Mujhe hindi nahi aati hai
I don't understand.	Main samjha (masculine)/ Samjhi (feminine) nahi
Come again? / Again	Phirse
What is the time?	Kitneh bajeh hain?
Where is the toilet?	Saucalaya kahan hai?
This is too expensive	Ye bahut mehenga hai