

INDIA TRIP NOTES

Mark Twain said: "India is the cradle of human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grandmother of tradition."

The initial draw of India is its antiquities. Walled cities and forts have been carefully preserved for centuries. Modern India is mesmerizing. The well-orchestrated chaos of Delhi traffic contrasts delightfully with the graceful navigation of houseboats on the Kerala backwaters. From the mountains of the north to the tropical beaches of the south, India has it all.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

US citizens are eligible for an e-Tourist Visa if the sole objective of visiting India is recreation, sightseeing, casual visit to meet friends or relatives, short duration medical treatment or casual business visit etc. and no other purpose/activity.

The link to the eVisa application is: <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>

MEDICATIONS & INNOCULATIONS

No medication or vaccinations are required for entry to India.

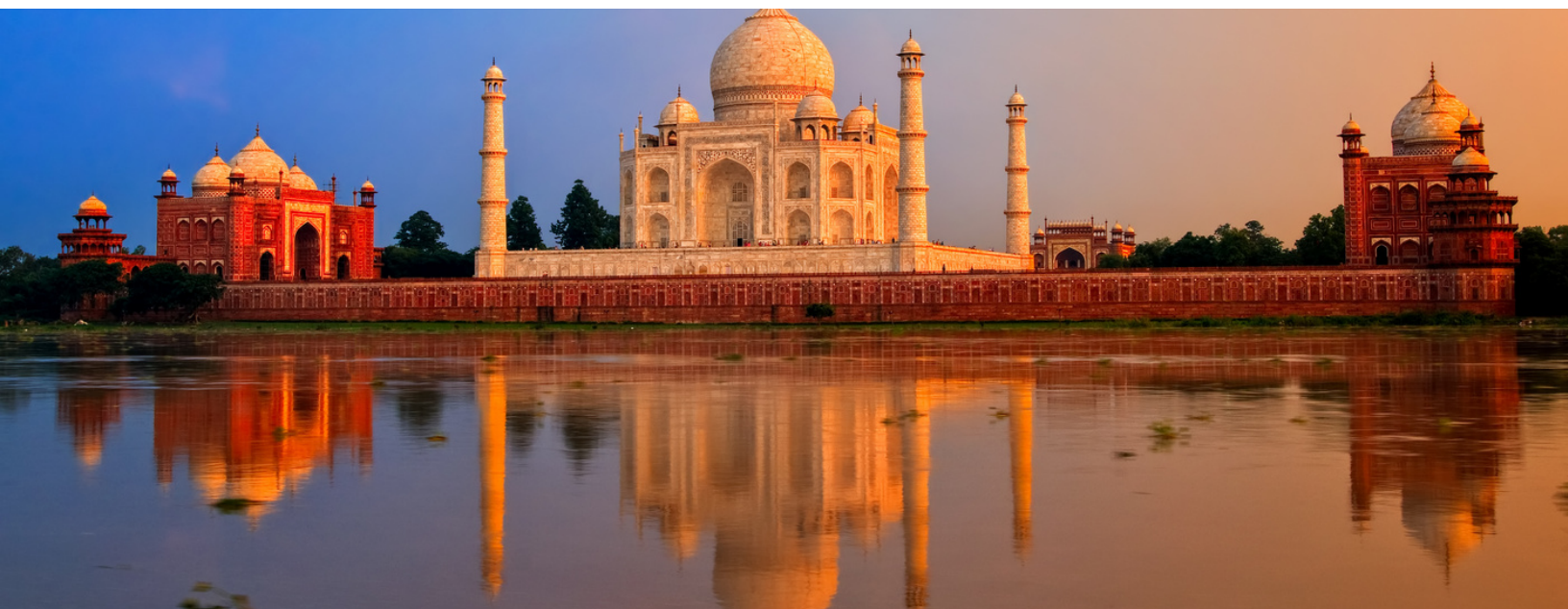
CURRENCY

The currency used in India is the rupee, which is divided into 100 paise. USD notes that are post 2006 and in mint condition are often accepted, but rupee are often required in small restaurants and at markets. Having a mix of both is recommended.

A convenient currency converter can be found at <http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

CREDIT CARDS

Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted, American Express less so. ATMs are easily found in major shopping areas.



TIME DIFFERENCE

Delhi is 10.5 hours ahead of US Eastern Standard Time and 13.5 hours ahead of US Pacific Standard Time.

SHOPPING

India is a shoppers paradise, look for carpets, textiles, jewelry, pashminas, shoes, scented oils, incense and candles, tea, spices, ayurvedic products, music and movies.

ELECTRICITY

India plug type is C, D, or M. Residential voltage is 230 V. Frequency is 50 Hz

For more information on plugs and voltage, please visit

<http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/>

LANGUAGE

Hindi and English are the primary languages of India.

CLIMATE

India is so vast that no single weather chart can cover it. In general, the best time to visit India is from October to March. India is large with diverse weather patterns. The Himalayas stop cold winds from reaching most of India so winters remain warm and summers can get very hot. The rainy and most humid months are July, August, and September, while the rest of the year remains relatively dry.

TIPPING GUIDELINES

Tipping is expected and appreciated. On totals ranging from 300 to 1000 INR, you can tip 10%. On bill amounts above 1000 INR, tipping 7% is sufficient. Restaurants in Delhi and Mumbai often include a 'service charge', not to be confused with 'service tax' (which is a government levied tax).

ETIQUETTE

Indians frown on public displays of affection. The left hand is considered unclean. Pointing with a finger is considered rude.

Away from the beach, dress modestly. Flip-flops are acceptable. When paying a visit to a temple, both men and women are expected to wear shirts that cover shoulders and part of the upper arms. Legs must also be covered, a sarong will suffice.

This information is provided by Asia Answers as a guideline to the country you will be visiting, and is up to date to the best of our knowledge. Further information is available to you on the official IndiaTourism Office website - <https://incredibleindia.org>