

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR INDIA TRIP 2017

### **When you land in New Delhi**

From the aircraft you will walk down to the escalator taking you to immigration

- For Biz/first class there is a separate line
- For international passport holder, another line

From there collect your bags

Walk to the exit and there will be someone waiting with you with a sign – I will confirm the sign.

### **Currency Exchange**

You can get your first round of currency exchanged at the airport itself. The rate will be displayed.

I would say get started with \$200 which will be around Rs12000

### **ATMS**

- We will be stopping at ATMs every other day.
- All international cards are used
- Yes, it is safe to use ATMs in India
- ATM will be in rupees and your account debit will be in dollars

### **Travel Insurance**

Totally your choice to get a travel insurance. If it gives you peace of mind please go for it.

Search for International travel insurance and you will get many choices

I have never taken one so cannot recommend

### **Indian Visa**

- PLEASE get your visa process going
- I would highly recommend get your passport stamped
- E-visa is easy but in Delhi there can be a long line at the airport
- [www.travisa.com](http://www.travisa.com)

### **Our local guide**

His name is Bishwajeet – or **Jit-da**

### **When do we start our trip?**

The trip starts on Oct 24<sup>th</sup>.

We leave on Nov 5<sup>th</sup> night. There are some of you leaving on Nov 5<sup>th</sup> during the day. The last day I have some plans but I will run through it when we all get to India. Some may just want to chill before taking off on a long flight back home.

### **What are the cities we will be visiting?**

New Delhi

Agra

Jaipur – jay-poor

Ranthambhore – ran-thumb-ore

Jodhpur – Joe-duh-poor

Manvar

### **What are the names of our hotels**

Delhi

Holiday Inn

Agra

Courtyard by Marriott

Jaipur

Castle Kanota

Ranthambhore

Pugmark Hotel

Jaipur

Grand Uniara

Jodhpur

Park Plaza Hotel

Manvar

Desert Camp and Resort

- All hotels have restaurants, bar, pool, air-conditioned rooms
- Both hotels in Jaipur are palaces converted into hotel and therefore might be little restricted in cuisine
- All hotels will have hair dryers
- Most hotels will also have spas and gyms
- Most hotels will have laundry service – not included

### **How much yoga are we going to do?**

We will try to do one class every other day but sometimes the day activities can be tiring and in that case, we will skip yoga. If you don't feel like doing yoga you are more than welcome to skip and chill. The level of the yoga class is going to be for beginners so that everyone can participate.

Typically, it will be an early morning class as by evening most of us will be ready to chill. But I will be open to anyone wanting to do yoga in the evening.

There won't be any fixed place – we will find an open space and use that.

### **Yoga mats**

This is what you will carry - <https://www.manduka.com/catalogsearch/result/?q=travel+mat>  
I will be making a purchase next week.

### **Travel within India**

We have our own airconditioned bus that will take us everywhere as a group. Anything that is not in the plan and you wish to do on your own, will be extra expense. Hotels have their private cars with drivers that can be rented.

This bus will carry our full luggage so at every hotel you will have all your belongs.

Manvar – we are camping or rather “glamping” – glamorous-camping. For that we will have to pick an overnight change, toiletries in a small bag so that it is easy to take in the jeep.

Most drives are between 3 to 6 hours. Our longest drive will be 6 hours after which we will keep it a restful evening.

From Jodhpur to Delhi we will be taking a domestic flight.

### **Night Life**

My plan does not include night life/clubs/pubs etc. Every hotel will have bars and restaurants  
I will try to do something on Nov 4<sup>th</sup> when return from our trip back to Delhi – no guarantees but will try to confirm before we leave.

### **Food**

- Most meals will be in the hotel and all meals will be buffet style
- 99% of the time you will have choice of continental and Indian food
- I personally stay away from raw and dairy foods while in India
- There are very few meals that we will have outside the hotel

### **Water while in India**

- Always drink bottled water but you can use regular tap water to wash, bathe and brush your teeth. Feel free to use bottled water for that too.
- Every hotel room will have bottles for you. The bus will have a cooler with water bottles.
- Outside, a 1-liter bottle is \$1-\$1.50. You can choose to take filter bottles or tablets etc.

## **Converter**

- Make sure your device has the 110 to 220 volt conversion ability
- US is 110 volt
- India is 220 volt

## **Phone**

- Please install whatsapp
- I still need to add a few more to the list
- When traveling to India get international roaming
- Most hotels will have wifi – some may have a fee on a per day basis

## **Money & Dollar Conversion**

Currency in India is Rupees

1 US dollar = Rs 60-65

Carry one ATM and one credit card - Let your bank know you are going to be in India

Most of the places you can use your credit card

Cash is needed for street shopping and tipping

## **Rooming**

Single – Karen and Gary

Room 1 – Jill + Jacqui

Room 2 – Lucy + Anya

Room 3 – Mary + Debbie

Room 4 – Karin + Kelly

Room 5 – Kristine + Maggie

Room 6 – Tammy + Van Do

Room 7 – Monique + Marilyn

## **Medical Kit**

1. Charcoal – for any stomach issues
2. Allergy medicine
3. Mosquito repellent – get some organic ones at Wholefoods or even Burt's bee has a great one
4. Do-terra
  - a. Terra shield oil - <https://doterra.com/US/en/p/terrashield-spray-oil>
  - b. On- Guard beadlets – great to have every day to keep the immunity high - <https://doterra.com/US/en/p/on-guard-oil-beadlet>
5. Ibuprofen
6. Band-Aid
7. Ear plugs
8. Any prescription medicines you may take on a regular basis

## **Bags to carry**

1. Big check in bag – check with your airlines how much weight you are allowed
2. Carry on
3. Purse – sling kind across your shoulder
4. Haversack to keep your camera, sun screen, water etc.
5. Money pouch around the waist or neck

## Packing

1. Don't pack too much as you will end up buying in India.
2. Clothing -Remember to be modest -
  - a. Taking a few full sleeve t-shirts to keep the bugs away and cover the shoulders in some places
  - b. Shorts are fine but closer to the knee
  - c. A light jacket for the evening and early morning safari – I would say one fleece jacket
  - d. A Stoll/scarf that will wrap around – if we need to cover head shoulders etc.
  - e. Swim suit
  - f. I take hiking pants which can be zipped out to shorts
  - g. T-shirts
  - h. If you like dressing for evening dinners, then feel free to take a few light dresses
  - i. Yoga clothes
3. Binoculars for the safari
4. Walking shoes
5. Flip-flop/sandals of some kind when you don't want to be in shoes
6. Sun screen
7. Sun hat
8. Glasses
  - a. Sun glasses
  - b. Reading glasses
  - c. Contact lens
9. Hand sanitizer
10. Toilet paper – 1 roll should be enough – remember hotel rooms will have toilet paper.  
Camping toilet rolls from amazon.com –
  - a. <https://www.amazon.com/Coghlan's-Packable-Toilet-Tissue-2-Rolls/dp/B003CKDPRA>
11. Camera + selfie stick
12. Passport
13. Copy of your passport – please leave one with your family at home
14. Convertor

## To Avoid

1. Avoid carrying anything expensive
2. Too many clothes and footwear
3. Avoid black color in India – too hot plus you are going to the land of the most colorful clothing
4. Too many books
5. Too much makeup and jewelry

## Shopping – all the things you will be able to shop for

1. Indian clothes
2. Fabric if you are into it
3. Jewelry
4. Leather goods
5. Small items for the house
6. Gifts for family and friends
7. Saris

## Bargaining

The term used is haggling in India 😊

Streets you have to bargain

Proper stores we don't bargain

If someone charges you Rs 500 – slash it to half and offer Rs. 250. They will then try to play the game – you can keep at your price or say “ok final price Rs 275 – or else I am leaving”

If they don't agree walk away – there will be many with the same thing. If not always go back and buy what you really liked.

I will be there at most places so will help you around.

For street shopping – I am still debating as it can be very overwhelming for many.

### **Language spoken**

English is the common language. All hotels will have people speaking English and in some places the English may not be too clear.

### **Hindi words**

1. How are you? – **aap-kay-se-ho**
2. I am fine – **may-teak-hu**
3. How much? – **kit-ne-ka**
4. Yes - **Haa**
5. No – **Na-he**
6. Thank you – **shoo-kri-ya**

## Rough day-to-day activities

### Delhi

- Qutub Minar
- Bahai temple
- Nov 5<sup>th</sup> choices – which we can figure out when we get to India.
  - Chill
  - Sikh gurudwara visit
  - Visit to a meditation center
  - Shopping

### Agra

- Taj Mahal
- Agra Fort
- Evening Light and Sound show
- Carpet shopping

### Ranthambhore

- Morning and evening safari

### Jaipur

- Amer Fort – elephant ride to the fort
- Jai Texart – *trying to get this organized. A day of creating your own scarf with block printing techniques.*
- Hawa Mahal
- Shopping

### Jodhpur

- Meherangarh fort
- Jaswant Thada
- Temple
- Bishnoi village – day tour
- Cooking class – *not confirmed yet*
- Shopping
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### Manvar

- Jeep desert safari
- Camel ride
- Evening cultural show