

# India

## Questions & Answers

### HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO FLY THERE?

Singapore Airlines fly there with a stopover in Singapore and flying time to Delhi or Mumbai from Perth is about 10 hours and 13 hours from the East Coast.

### WILL WE BE MET AND TRANSFERRED?

Yes, where transfers have been included in your arrangements, our operator (Scenic Journeys) will have their representative meet you on arrival and transfer you to your hotel.

### TRANSFER TIME

Varies, depending on arrival airport, chosen hotel & traffic conditions. Approximate transfer times : Delhi (30 mins), Mumbai (60 mins)

### OFFICIAL LANGUAGE / S

Hindi and Urdu are the official language, and each region has its own dialect, which can change subtly from village to village, however English is widely spoken.

### SEASONS

*Winter:* The winter months (November - February) have bright, sunny days and are pleasant throughout India

*Summer:* The summer months (April - June) are hot in most parts of India

*Monsoon:* (June – September) is very hot and potentially very wet.

### FOOD

Everyone is familiar with Indian food in all its many varieties. The flavours differ from region to region and remember that there are many dishes that aren't too spicy. International meals are available at most hotels and buffet breakfasts provided by all hotels ranging from 3\* to 5\*.

### DRINKING WATER

It is recommended you drink bottled water only. Some hotels provide complimentary bottles each day and they are inexpensive to purchase at local shops. Boiled drinks such as coffee & tea are fine. Ice is usually OK at restaurants, but should be treated with care.

### TRANSPORT: HOW TO GET AROUND?

Sightseeing is readily available through our operator. Otherwise, public transport and taxis are available, but the motor-rickshaw is the most common form of transport and is relatively cheap.

### WHAT IS THE DRESS CODE?

Cool and casual clothing. When visiting temples and religious sites, you may need to cover shoulders as a sign of respect. (Avoid wearing shorts or sleeveless tops). Shoes must be removed inside most Buddhist and Islamic temples, but this is not universal so look to see what others do. If shoes are piled up outside the doorway, you should pay heed.

### WHAT IS THE CURRENCY?

The local currency is Indian Rupees

### WHAT IS THERE TO SHOP FOR?

Be prepared to bargain, but remember to do so in a friendly manner & you will achieve better results. India is famous for rugs, semi precious and precious stones, jewellery, wooden artefacts, marble & stone carvings. There is no shortage of things to buy in India .

### NIGHT LIFE AND ENTERTAINMENT?

Hotels generally provide evening entertainment which might include bands, traditional dancing and music. Some have night clubs. But apart from the bigger cities like Delhi and Mumbai, outside of the hotels there is not much in the way of nightlife.

### MEDICAL FACILITIES

Over the counter prescription drugs are widely available in major cities, but best to bring frequently used medicines from home. A basic first aid kit would be recommended. A trip to your GP prior to departure is a must to enquire about vaccinations.

### POWER SUPPLY

230-240 VOLTS @ AC 50 cycles. Adaptors will be required as plugs are 2 prong & are different from Australian varieties, we recommend a multi socket adaptor.

### MONEY EXCHANGE AND CREDIT CARDS

Most credit cards have a ready acceptance at the hotels and we recommend you use one to pay your hotel account.

### TIPPING

Take a supply of small denomination US dollar notes (\$1 & \$5) and plenty of 50 Rupee notes. A tip of USD1.00 or 50 Rupees should suffice for porters, local guides, boat crew etc. It is also considered proper to make a small donation after visiting a temples - most have contribution boxes for this purpose.

### TAKE ALONG

Hat, sunscreen, books and insect repellent. Recommended to bring film, however extra supplies can be purchased in major cities.

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