

## Destination: Gujarat/Kutch/Rajasthan



India has so many incredible experiences that it is no exaggeration to call it one of the world's richest cultural travel destinations. India is a land of dreams and romance, of fabulous wealth and poverty, of splendour and rags. India is a country of contrasts and paradoxes, of powerful flavours, of spectacular images, and extreme patterns of behaviour. That is what makes this journey so irresistible and powerful. In addition, Indian people are in general openhearted, friendly, and will welcome you to share their country.

### Is this tour is right for you? It is, if you:

- love piecing together how ancient societies lived
- are curious about how their past has shaped the present
- like to see how material cultures shape societies
- enjoy exploring off-beaten track destinations
- zig when the crowds zag

In fact, we wager you'll fall in love with this relatively undiscovered corner of India and plan to return before you head back home.

### This tour may not be the best fit if you:

- get overwhelmed by significantly

- different cultural norms than in the west
- insist on five-star luxury and comfort when you travel (\*please see below for accommodations and transportation)

We'd be happy to customize a private tour to your exact liking. Please [write us!](#)

### How strenuous is this tour?

If you can walk on level ground for 30 minutes, you'll be fine. Navigating some stepwells requires climbing down flights of stairs – but you needn't go all the way down. Often stepwells are best appreciated from ground level, looking down. On the other hand, a fitness-minded traveller will relish the daily exercise. Whatever your choice, you are never under duress to participate. At

all times you will be accompanied to ensure your safety and well-being.

### How and to/from where do I book flights?

International flights can be booked into/out of Delhi (DEL) or Mumbai (BOM), the most accessible international airports near Gujarat and Rajasthan. The Gujarat tour will begin in Rajkot (RAJ), and end in Ahmedabad (AMD). The Rajasthan portion will end in Jaipur (JAI). Internal flights will be required to get you between your international port of arrival/departure and the start and end points of the tours.

Internal flights are easily booked online or can be arranged by us (\$). We can also arrange transfers and additional overnight stays (\$). For any questions about best flights, routes, timings, don't hesitate to contact us!

### What is the comfort level of this tour?

**On a scale of 0-5, where 5 = decadent luxury and 0 = basic camping, this tour is rated a 3-4.** We go into villages and markets. Sometimes we invite you off the bus to traipse through fields to see how cotton grows or how fudge is made the old-fashioned way. Such activities invariably add to your overall experience and are designed with your comfort and safety in mind. At all times, the choice is yours.

### Do I need a visa for India?

Unless you have OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) status, you will need a visa.

**Canada and UK:** Currently i.e., Dec 2021, e-visas/TVOA (Tourist Visa on Arrival) for Canadian or UK nationals are not available.

Only "sticker" visas are available. You will need a valid passport, along with other documentation. <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/index.html>

Once the application is filled out in the Indian govt. website, make an appointment at an approved visa processing facility consulate OR courier your application in. Processing centers: [Canada](#) and [UK](#)

Visa processing can take up to 3 weeks

**US and European Nationals:** E-visas available. Apply and get an e-visa online. <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>

For travellers seeking a 30 day e-visa, apply no less than 4 days before arrival and up to 30 days in advance of departure for India. Travelers seeking a 1 yr or 5 yr visa may apply up to 120 days in advance. More info regarding application periods in Question 5 (Q5) of the FAQs, [here](#)

Past group members report difficulty navigating and uploading photos; sessions time-out; payments do not go through right away. But perseverance has does pay off.

**Please note it is your sole responsibility to possess a valid passport and visa prior to this tour.**

**NOTE:** While applying for a visa including an e-visa, you will be asked to supply an address in India. You may use our office address in Delhi:

**Mr Subroto DasGupta**  
**E.Y.H.O. Tours/Country Tours**  
**ADDRESS: H- 1585, CHITTARANJAN PARK**  
**NEW DELHI-110019**  
**Tel.+91-11-40518398**

## Other FAQs

### I hear only 5\* hotels are good enough for travel in India. Correct?

Incorrect. We select accommodations for cultural relevance, comfort, safety, and personal service. All accommodations have private bathrooms and western-style toilets. We will travel an untrampled part of India in search of unique rural experiences. 5\* is not necessarily available or desirable.

### What is the Time Zone in India?

India is 10 1/2 hours ahead of the Eastern Standard Time.

### What is the weather like in Sept/Oct?

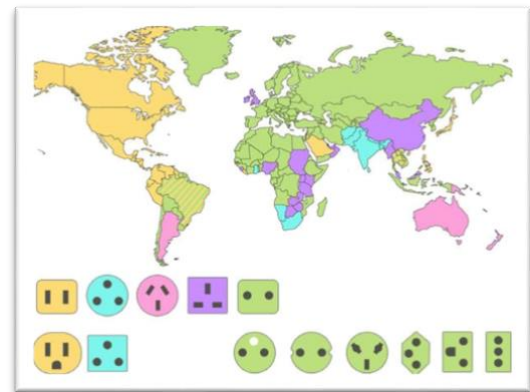
October is the gateway month to winter in Gujarat, Kutch, and Rajasthan, and generally pleasant for international visitors. Expect average max daytime temps around 35.0°C (95°F) and min. temps. 21.4°C (70.52°F). Rural areas may be cooler depending on proximity to large bodies of water, and/or green cover. October is a dry month with an average of 11mm (0.4in) rain. In a nutshell, clear skies, gentle breezes, warm days, and bearable nights.

### What about clothes and valuables?

A comprehensive packing list will be supplied. Consider layering clothes. Pack a light windbreaker, as well as warm socks in case of inclement weather. Comfortable closed-toed walking shoes are recommended. Dresses below the knees, and trousers and sleeveless dresses are acceptable. Remember, you will be in a relatively inexpensive shopper's paradise! We have never had a theft, but best leave all expensive jewelry and valuables at home.

### What is the voltage in India?

The voltage in India is 220 AC with either 2- or 3-pin round plugs. See below. Some hotels carry adaptors.



### I'm flying two long haul flights. What do I carry with me on the plane?

Carry all valuables with you: your passport (keep the photocopy in another bag), travelers' checks, cash, camera and memory cards, phone, and prescription medication. In case of baggage delay, a change of clothes along with chargers, shaving supplies, deodorant, toothbrush and toothpaste, medicines and tissues. All amenities, including toilet paper, are readily available in major urban areas of Mumbai, Jaipur and Ahmedabad.

### What the deal with bathrooms in India?

We stay in the best available heritage/boutique hotels that would equate to a North American 4-5\*. Some locations require community-run accommodations built in local living styles. All have western style bathrooms. However, on road transfers, toilet paper may not be available, and toilets may be basic squat style.

### How can I call home from India?

India uses LTE, 4G, 3G and GSM frequency bands 900/1800. Your phone will work with a local SIM card (check the frequency band your phone uses for compatibility in India). Local pay-as-you-go data and voice packages are inexpensive. Or ask your service provider to allow International roaming. Note: it can take up to 3 business days to activate a local SIM card.

### My big fear is getting sick in India

Two main reasons why travelers get sick in India are pre-departure stress and eating unwisely. Before you fly, be sure to get plenty of rest and be extra vigilant about contracting colds/flu viruses. The food in India is delicious and generally well prepared. But because local Indian fare can include a plethora of well-spiced—but not necessarily “hot” dishes—it’s advisable to ease western digestive tracts into the cuisine. If in doubt, eat rice and packaged yoghurt until your stomach acclimatizes. **\*\*Only eat foods that have been cooked, and are piping hot upon serving, and eat fruit that can be peeled\*\***

Safe bottled water is readily available all over India. Decline ice cubes in drinks.

### Will drinking water be provided while travelling?

We provide unlimited bottled drinking water while on the road. In interests of reducing plastic waste, please consider bringing your own refillable water bottle. In hotels, normally 2 bottles per room per day are supplied free of charge.

### What about the currency?

The “Rupee” is the unit of currency, as in 100 cents = 1 dollar; 100 paise = 1 rupee. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>The

current exchange rate is about 78 rupees = 1 U.S. Dollar. The rupee is a closed currency meaning you cannot bring in above a certain amount (currently Rs 10,000 per person). USD are freely exchangeable. Taking Indian rupees out of India is a punishable offence.

Travelers’ checks are not recommended. ATMs are readily available in major urban areas. Carry smaller denomination bills to use at trip-end so you don’t have to change more than you need. Upon arrival, change equivalent of \$100 to rupees for when you may not access an ATM during the first couple of days. Credit cards are widely accepted in urban areas.

### How much cash should I carry? In what currency?

You should be able to use a credit card except in markets and with smaller artisans. How much cash to carry depends on your individual needs/shopping capacity. Most meals are included; the ones not included will cost roughly \$15 without alcohol. As a general rule, incidentals might cost you \$200-300. All major currencies can be exchanged; the easiest is USD and GBP.

### What about tipping?

We run a \$200 pp tipping kitty for drivers and guides in Gujarat, and \$100 pp in Rajasthan. Supplement as you wish. Any unused amounts at the end will be democratically disposed of.

### And shopping . . . ?

India, and particularly Gujarat and Kutch, are a shopper’s paradise. From clothes to jewelry in gold and silver; artifacts, carpets, rugs, embroidery . . . the list goes on. Quality and the price vary widely. Be sure to check

the quality of what you buy. Bargaining is expected unless shopping at nonprofit co-ops or directly from artisans.

### What are the luggage requirements?

Most flights within India observe a strictly-enforced rule of 15 kg of checked luggage and 7kg of carry-on. Excess baggage fees runs \$5-6 per kilo. Or you can pay beforehand for excess luggage at a slightly lower cost. You may wish to carry a collapsible bag for extra shopping. We will try to provide shipping-home options at Ahmedabad and Jaipur.

### Do I need any vaccinations?

No vaccinations are mandatory in order to enter India. At all times, follow recommendations of your travel health clinic.

In addition, we recommend shots for hepatitis A/B, typhoid and Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Polio. You may want to bring Tylenol, Immodium and/or Pepto Bismol, in addition to prescription medications. Keep a list of your medications with their pharmaceutical names and dosage, as most medicines are available in India under other names.

### What about malaria?

We are travelling during post-monsoon in a dry part of India. As such, malaria is not a threat. The best prevention from mosquito bites is to wear protective clothing and insect repellent. A travel health practitioner is the best judge of your individual requirements.

Stepwells are fascinating! Where can I find out more?

- <https://www.britannica.com/technology/stepwell>
- <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/review-vanishing-stepwells-india-180962637/>
- <https://www.outlookindia.com/outlooktravel/see/story/68975/a-tale-of-the-forgotten-and-soon-to-disappear-stepwells-of-india>
- <https://www.archdaily.com/395363/india-s-forgotten-stepwells>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pyAlgjnDI9Y> – E.Y.H.O Hosted lecture by Victoria Lautman

*Questions? We have answers!*

[shila@eyhotours.com](mailto:shila@eyhotours.com)

Read on for Covid-related regulations and protocol.

### Covid-related regulations and protocol

The situation and government guidelines are subject to change, so we cannot predict what may happen in Sept/October. Here is current (Aug 2022) information.

#### What are Covid-related entry requirements to India?

Please follow the following guidelines as of Feb 10, 2022. You need EITHER a negative PCR test OR certificate of full vaccination (min. 2 doses)

<https://www.newdelhiairport.in/pdf/Guidelines-for-International-arrivals-updated-on-10th-February-2022-11-02-22.pdf>

The Suvidha form can be filled in online here.

<https://www.newdelhiairport.in/airsuvidha/apho-registration>

Upon return home, travelers are subject to rules of their countries of residence.

#### What we will do to deliver as safe a tour as possible

- We require full vaccination of all our travellers
- We require travel medical insurance. Travel repatriation insurance is optional but recommended. We do not endorse any insurance companies. However, we can offer the following advice culled from past travellers' experience: [Last page of T&C](#)
- If you or someone else on our trip has symptoms of Covid 19 while travelling with us, we will assist in testing and medical care if needed.

- We will act quickly to place distance between the unwell traveller and others and follow any government guidelines that are in action at the time. This may include self-isolation or quarantine depending on the risk to others in the group.
- We will provide access to health facilities such as clinics or hospitals if required.
- All our guides have emergency and contact numbers for the traveller to get the best treatment.
- PCR tests are readily available in all urban areas. For additional peace of mind, you may carry your own Rapid Antigen tests.
- In addition, all guides and drivers are fully vaccinated, with most of them having a third booster.

Please note that E.Y.H.O. Tours is not responsible for covering the cost of any curtailment to the tour, missed transport arrangements, additional accommodation required, all expenses for testing and treatment or any other costs incurred by the traveller/s. Travellers MUST ensure that they have travel insurance that covers these costs.