

Culinary Tour India 2019

FAQs



Is this the right tour for me?

It may sound obvious but this E.Y.H.O. tour is not for everyone. It is important to us that you decide to join this tour based on as comprehensive a set of information we can provide. Please therefore read carefully the itinerary and following FAQs. Overall, if you are in a reasonable state of health with an open mind and a sense of adventure, you should be perfectly able to cope with this tour. Many of the activities are optional. We can cater to vegetarians on this tour. Should you have any concerns about your ability to partake in any aspect of the tour please contact shila@eyhotours.com. We will do our best to accommodate individual requests.

Adventure Rating 

Comfort Grade 

Fitness Level 

Cultural Interest 

Do I need a visa for India?

Very likely. Please visit the website of the nearest Indian Consulate. For e-visas, apply here: <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>

(If link does not work, copy and paste in your browser's search function)

An e-visa gives instant confirmation of 60-day single- and double-entry visa. You will need a valid passport, along with other documentation listed on the website. Apply online minimum 4 days up to 120 days in advance of date of arrival.

Once you apply, you will receive an ETA (Electronic Travel Authorisation) via email. Print this out in colour and present it upon arrival. On presentation, an e-Visa stamp will be endorsed on your passport.

Past group members have experienced difficulty with the website. Photos are difficult to upload; sessions time-out; payments do not go through right away. But

perseverance has unfailingly paid off.

If not going the e-visa route, visit the closest Indian consulate or mail your application in.

Visa processing can take 4-5 weeks. 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

What is the Time Zone in India?

10 1/2 hours ahead of EST.

What is the weather like?

November in India is the post-monsoon season. In Mumbai expect high humidity. In Aurangabad, Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur, it's hot and dry. Goa will be hot and humid with cooling sea breezes. Hotels and public buildings are air-conditioned, and our transport will be air conditioned.

Carry hats, ample sunscreen, and cool clothing.

What about clothes and valuables?

A comprehensive packing list will be supplied closer to tour date. Remember, you will be in a shopper's paradise with relatively inexpensive clothes geared to Indian climate

and culture. Leave behind all expensive jewelry.

Will my electronics work in India?

Voltage in India is 220 AC. Dual voltage appliances can be used with an adapter. Most hotel rooms will have hair dryers and built in adapters.

What should I carry with me on the flight?

Valuables, passport (keep the photocopy in another bag), credit cards, cash, camera, iPad/cellphones. In case your suitcase arrives late, carry a change of clothes. Toiletries readily available in major urban areas such as Mumbai, Delhi, and Jaipur.

What's the fuss with toilet paper in India?

Your hotels have Western toilets. However, on road transfers Western-style toilets may not be available. Carry a roll of toilet paper and hand sanitizer.

Can I get an Indian sim card for telephone calls?

India uses 4G and GSM 99/1800. Your unlocked GSM phone with multi band will work on Indian SIM with govt-issued id and a 24 hour connection period. Phone plans are pay-as-you-go, inexpensive, and widely refillable.

I need internet/wifi access.

Most hotels supply wifi, but bandwidth may be limited. Option: purchase a pay-as-you-simcard with data.

My biggest fear is I will get sick in India.

The main reason why travellers get sick is eating unwisely. The food in India is delicious and generally well prepared, but because local fare can include a plethora of spices,

ease gently into the cuisine. If in doubt, rely on grains and rice, and packaged yoghurt until your stomach acclimatizes. **Only eat foods served piping hot and fruit that can be peeled.**

We will have bottled water on our transport. Hotels supply bottled water although amount varies before a charge is levied. Pack a water bottle to minimise waste. Beware of ice.

Do I need any vaccination shots?

At all times, please follow the recommendations of your travel health clinic. We recommend Hepatitis A/B and typhoid vaccines in addition to mandatory DPT vaccines. With regard to malaria, we travel in the dry season and incidence of malaria is low (despite blanket travel warnings on country advisory sites). Your health professional is the best judge of your particular health profile which may render you high risk to malaria. Consider listing your medications with their pharmaceutical names for when you need to replace your meds - most medicines are available in India under generic names.

How much do non-included meals cost?

Ranges from \$5 - \$15. In fine-dining restaurants, expect similar costs as in upscale North American restaurants. **Allow USD 250 for extra meals, alcohol not included.**

What about the currency?

“Rupee” is the unit of currency. 100 paise = 1 rupee. Current exchange rate approximately 70 rupees = 1 U.S. and 55 to Cdn. Dollar.

Travelers’ checks are not recommended. ATMs in airports and urban areas are readily available; look for Cirrus logo. ATMs frequently run out, and you may try a

couple. Consider carrying a few USD \$10 and \$20 bills for end of the trip so you don’t change more than you need. Credit cards are widely accepted in urban areas.

Tip: ask your guide to change money. He will get a better rate and save you time.

How many rupees should I carry?

Indian rupee (INR) is a closed currency; you cannot legally procure it outside of India. Be aware of demonetized old currency notes that are no longer accepted. Your best bet is to carry USD, Euro, or British pounds and change upon arrival

How much foreign exchange can I bring into India?

At entry, max allowable is USD10,000 or equivalent.

What about tipping?

We run a tipping kitty of approximately \$7 per person per day. Covers guides, drivers, driver assistant, porters, and wait staff. Please **carry USD 120 for the kitty to be collected in Mumbai.**

On your own, tip porters \$1 per piece of luggage, \$1 per person per day in hotel rooms, and 10% of bill at restaurants. You may see Service Tax included on your bill. This does **not** go to servers.

Let’s talk shopping. What currency? Credit cards? How much will I need?

India is a shopper’s paradise, from clothes to jewelry in gold, silver and accessories; artifacts, carpets, rugs, embroidery...the list is endless. Prices vary wildly. Bargaining is possible in tourist shopping areas. Major stores accept credit cards. Markets require rupees. Typically guests purchase

\$1000-3000.

Internal flight luggage allowances?

25 kg checked-in on Air India internal flights, Vistara allows 20 kg. Can be multiple bags. Other internal flights allow only 15kg. Carry-on is 7 kg on both. Excess luggage on internal flights is levied at \$4-5 per kg.

Help! I over-shopped. Can I leave my luggage behind at a hotel? Ship it home?

Where possible, your tour leaders will assist in reuniting you with your luggage either within India or help with shipping it home.

In closing . . .

India is a land of dreams and romance, of fabulous wealth and poverty, of contrasts and paradoxes. It is also a land of extreme patterns of behaviour. Your carefully planned itinerary will take you far. **But India is best experienced spontaneously.** In addition, Indians are generally openhearted and friendly, and will welcome you to their country