



You're traveling to India!

This short guide will help you prepare for your upcoming journey with Alluring Asia.

Passports & Visa

A passport with a minimum of six months validity remaining from the date of entry and evidence of onward/return ticket are required. A visa is required for United States citizens to enter India.

Click on bullet items below for more information.

- Apply for a passport
- Renew by mail
- Report and replace lost/stolen U.S. passport
- Correct or change U.S. passport information
- Visa information

Immunizations & Vaccines

We strongly recommend you seek the advice of your physician for all travel vaccinations. For additional information please visit www.cdc.gov/travel.

Tipping

Tipping is a way of life and expected in India. The term Baksheesh, which encompasses tipping, aptly describes this concept. Service charges of 10% are added to bills in most leading hotels and restaurants. Where it is not included, a tip of 10-15% of the bill would be appropriate.

Airport porter/hotel bellboy:

\$1.00 - \$2.00 USD per bag.

Your tour guide:

\$20.00 - \$25.00 USD per person per day.

Driver/assistants:

\$10.00 - \$15.00 USD per person per day.

PRE TRAVEL

INDIA

GUIDE

What to Pack

India is a vast country with different climates. Winter from October-March is cold in the north and hot in the south. It's best to bring clothing for layering when visiting numerous regions.

Dress is casual but conservative and modest in style. Bring lightweight clothing in natural fibers like linen, silk and cotton to be the most comfortable in the hotter regions. Bring sweaters, fleece lined jacket/vest for the colder regions.

The best and most comfortable attire is the local "Lehngas" the loose trousers and long tops worn by many locals. They are readily available and reasonably priced.

Scarf, sarong or pashmina to cover your head, arms and legs when visiting religious sites or you may wear long sleeves and loose pants or long skirts. Bring a pair or two of temple socks.

An umbrella and rain jacket are essential during the rainy season from July-September in the north.

Hiking/trekking shoes and/or good pair of walking shoes for the city.

Mosquito repellent, sunscreen, sun hat, sunglasses, hand sanitizer/handi-wipes, binoculars and a flashlight with extra batteries for those common power surges.

Public restrooms in India typically do not have toilet tissue, so you may wish to carry a small amount during your touring days.

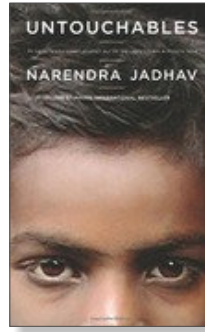
Water purifier or a Safe Water Drinking Bottle since water is not safe to drink in India.

Electronic chargers for your camera, phone, computer, etc. and extra camera memory card(s).

Electrical converter and outlet adapter. Their electrical voltage is 220 volts AC, 50HZ and they use a three prong plug.

Due to restricted weight limits on all the domestic flights (15kg or 33 pounds) it is recommended that you travel as light as possible.

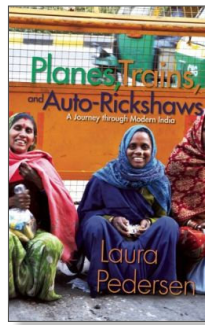
Reading List



Untouchables, My Family's Triumphant Escape from India's Caste System

Author: Narendra Jadhav, Biography/Memoir, 2007, 307 pages.

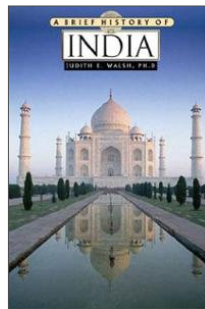
A bestseller in India, the *Untouchables* is an inspiring tale of defying prejudice and gaining an education in the slums of Mumbai.



Planes, Trains, and Auto-Rickshaws, A Journey Through Modern India

Author: Laura Pedersen, Cultural Portrait, 2012, 224 pages.

Pedersen's peregrinations around the sub-continent are accompanied by a wickedly sardonic sense of humor as she explores the rich culture, future potential and general absurdity of the emerging world power. A late comer to India, the former New York Times columnist and author traveled there for the first time in middle-age and was especially drawn to the role of women and children in India today, shedding light on an often neglected issue.



A Brief History of India

Author: Judith E. Walsh, History, 2007, 348 pages.

A Brief History of India offers an accessible, reliable introduction to this vast nation admired for its spiritual traditions (Hinduism and Buddhism both originated here), its peaceful struggle for independence led by Mahatma Gandhi, and its vibrant culture—from Bollywood and spicy cuisine to classical music and world-renowned authors.