

HANDY HINTS FOR INDIA

TEMPERATURE

The average temperature in the regions we will be visiting will range from 28°C – 33°C.

CURRENCY

The local currency is Rupees. 1 AUD = approx 50 INR. Rupee (Re) Rs 1 = 100 Paise. Coins are in denominations of 25, 50 Paise and 1, 2, and 5 and 10 rupees. Notes are in denominations of 50, 100, 200, 500 and 2000 rupees. The import and export of the Rupee is, however prohibited. Receipts of currency exchange must be kept, as rupees can be reconverted on departure.

TIME

India is 4.30 hours behind Australia (East Coast) – and 5.30 in day light saving.

ELECTRICITY

220 volts.

BEGGING

You will come across this on a regular basis. Please do not encourage begging. If you give alms to one, you will soon be surrounded by many more. This could get out of hand.

FOOD AND DRINK

Tap water should not be drunk. Bottled water is readily available. However ensure the seal is intact. Avoid ice, ice-cream, fresh curd (similar to yoghurt) and fruit juices from unreliable sources. Avoid salads, unless it is from a reliable source. Eat fruit that you can peel yourself.

Drink plenty of water (bottled), as you will be sweating profusely in high temperatures. Indian cuisine is diverse and varies from state to state. Be adventurous and try it gradually!

TIPS/PORTERAGE

Tips will be covered by Spice Odyssey.

WHAT TO PACK

A light cardigan always come handy in case there is an unusual cold spell.

Insect repellent.

It is always handy to carry a **torch**.

Be sensitive to the local religious customs and traditions. Shorts are not permitted when visiting Hindu temples and other religious sites. You need to be appropriately dressed and you will have to remove your footwear prior to entering the temple.

DEPARTURE FORMALITIES

For International flights, you are required to be at the airport at least 2.30hrs prior to departure. Please advise your seating preferences and Frequent Flyer numbers at the time of making your airline booking.

- **Checked Baggage:** Please put your name and address inside the suitcase and a name and mobile telephone number on a label on the outside.
- **Itineraries/copies of documents:** It is a good idea to keep copies of your itinerary, passport, tickets, credit cards.... one in your checked bag, one in your cabin baggage and one with your family in Australia. An online copy of your itinerary is also handy. It does make things easier in the event of being robbed.
- **Toiletries/Medicines in your cabin bag:** Toiletries should not exceed more than 100mls and should be placed in a clear plastic bag and presented separately at the security checkpoint. Small amount of medicines are permitted for the flight. If you take any prescription

medicines, please ensure you carry a letter from your doctor. Water bottles will be confiscated by security. Anything in excess of the 100mls specification should be packed in your checked bag.

- **Duty Free:** If you intend buying spirits for the trip, please do so whilst we are at an intermediate transit port, on the outward journey. The duty free allowance for India is two litres of spirits, 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250gms of tobacco.

HEALTH

- **Vaccinations:** Check with your local GP. Anti Malaria tablets are strongly recommended.
- If you are on prescribed medication, please request your GP to provide an appropriate letter stating your medical requirement.

PAYMENT DETAILS (BY)

Payment of a non-refundable deposit of AUD \$200 per passenger is required within 7 days of confirmation. The Information page of the current passport has to be submitted (email) with the deposit along with contact details (phone, address and email).

A further amount of AUD \$1500 needs to be paid by 15th June 2019 and the final instalment by 1st August 2019.

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

- Direct deposit/internet transfer to:

Viatour Travel Pty Ltd,

BSB: 012491/Account No: 208918064. Swift Code: ANZBAU3M.

A confirmation of the deposit needs to be emailed to: bindu@viatour.com.au

- Credit card – via phone. Please note there is a 2% fee for Visa, MasterCard and American Express.

Once we have deposits for a minimum of 10 travellers we will give you the go ahead to purchase international airfares. Viatour can organise this for you at the best available price. Singapore Airlines is our preferred option.

INSURANCE

Insurance: Is mandatory for the trip and we advise a comprehensive cover. We recommend you purchase Insurance at the time of deposit so your deposit payment is also covered. We can assist you with this.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR VIATOUR

Bindu Gupta

Viatour Travel Pty Ltd, 125 Ramsay Rd, Haberfield NSW 2045

M: (61) 0422 257308 | P: (612) 9799 3222 | F: (612) 9799 9792

E: bindu@viatour.com.au | W: www.viatour.com.au

INDIAN VISA

Mandatory - E-Travel Visa

Online application: <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>

Applications can be made four months prior to arrival, but not later than 4 days prior to your arrival. Passports must have 6 months validity after return date and two blank pages.

PRE & POST TOURS

We will be happy to organise personalised pre or post-tours in India that link in with the group tour. Please speak to Bindu and she will be able to organise this for you.

Last of all bring your spirit of adventure and keep an open mind!

MARIE FONSECA
SPICE ODYSSEY

