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India Himalaya Volunteer and Adventure

Adventure Relaxation Culture

Trip Name: India Himalaya Volunteer and Adventure **Trip Code:** INHP **Duration:** From 28 days

Trip Highlights

- Experience real life in India as you stay with a local family for 3 nights
- Visit one of the Wonders of the World - the magnificent Taj Mahal
- Experience Himachal Pradesh, set in a beautiful northern region of India
- Choose from a variety of different volunteer projects including teaching, childcare, or helping out in a school for children with special needs.
- Help to make a real difference to the live of people living in Himalayan India

Overview

Based in a beautiful region of northern India, this Himalaya volunteer and India adventure programme is an excellent choice if you want to make a difference to the lives of local people as well as having a real India adventure in an area that is normally forgotten by many travellers to Asia.

For your first few days in India you'll get to spend some time in the Capital City, exploring some of the best that buzzing Delhi has to offer including a detailed orientation and tour of the city, as well as morning yoga sessions, Bollywood dance classes, a henna workshop and a visit to a local market. If this isn't enough you'll even get to see a Bollywood movie!

With a variety of different volunteer placements to choose from, you will be able to leave safe in the knowledge that you have helped to make a lasting difference to the lives of the children and young people that you have met.

Destination Info

Starting with an overnight stay in Delhi, the group spends 3 days in Jaipur for orientation and sightseeing. Then

you'll board an overnight train bound for Palamphur, which is a quaint hill station set high in the mountains of the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. Surrounded by tea gardens and pine forests it is a wonderful setting for your volunteer placement. With this setting in mind you probably would not be surprised to hear that Palamphur is also known as the tea capital of this region of north-west of India. Its name comes from the local word 'pulum' which means 'lots of water'.

Itinerary

For both programmes (four or eight weeks) the schedule is the same for the first seven days:

Day 1 - Arrival in Delhi
Personally met at Delhi Airport and shown to a hotel to refresh and chill out.

Day 2 to 4 - Orientation Days
Your first few days are all about getting settled in to life in India and getting to grips with the culture. You will have a detailed orientation that covers things such as: Indian history and culture, volunteering and community development and introduction to Hindi. The orientations also include time for sightseeing and shopping, morning yoga sessions, a Bollywood dance class and a henna workshop. You will also see a Bollywood movie! On day 4 you will have a tour of the local area giving you time to explore your new surroundings.

Day 5 - Visit the Taj Mahal

For those who have always wanted to visit the Taj Mahal then today is sure to be a highlight of your trip! The breathtaking experience of seeing this landmark is simply mesmerizing!

Day 6 - Transfer to Project
Leaving the Taj Mahal behind you'll travel towards the Himalayas to begin your volunteering. The camp is located in the Bindravan village, which is part of Palampur town (1.5km away). You will then have free time to relax, unpack and become familiar with your new home.

Day 7 - Free day
You'll have the day to settle into your surroundings which will be your home for the next three to seven weeks.

Days 8 to 12 - Volunteering at the Project

On your first day at the project you will meet with all the friendly guides that will take care of you for the duration of the project. They are there to offer on-site assistance, helping with any language barriers and will attend the

projects with you so there is always help and advice if needed.

Weeks 2 to 4 / 2 to 8 - dependent on length of stay

Depending on your interests and local needs, you are placed in work settings where you can make a meaningful contribution to the improvement of local social services. You can volunteer by helping, the three main areas are education, childcare centres and a school for mentally challenged children.
You also have the opportunity to do further volunteer work on free afternoons.
Typical placements include additional tutoring for slow learning children, maintenance of institutional facilities, computer training and other similar community orientated projects and services.

Volunteer Options
1. Education
2. Childcare
3. Women Empowerment

Wherever your volunteer placement occurs, the general pattern is to work five days a week for approximately three to five hours per day. Most work occurs in the morning before lunch. But some placements require afternoon work as well.

Volunteer Role: Education projects

Class sizes in India can be extremely large, leading teachers to become little more than traffic police attempting to keep order.

Activities include:

- Teaching children English, Maths and social skills
- Creating a playful environment through painting, playing games, singing etc
- Working with local teachers in creating low cost teaching materials
- Take responsibility for everyday attendance of a few children to the school
- First aid training and creating basic hygiene awareness amongst children for healthier living
- Between the end of March and mid-April, from mid-July to early August and from mid-December to the end of December, the government schools are closed for holidays. If you are here during this time you will have the opportunity to teach at independently sponsored schools (using community centres).

Childcare volunteers assist in local childcare centres, known as Aanganbari. The concept of ‘pre-school' childcare is a new one in India. Unlike Western countries, where childcare facilities exist primarily to free women to work, the aanganbari's main purpose is to provide a safe, healthy and hygienic space to young children who would not be able to receive proper care at home.

Activities include:

- Ensuring maximum attendance by the children of the area to these centres
- Personal attention and care to the children coming to the centre every day
- Assistance to the local worker for record maintenance for each child based on health, vaccination, growth and nutritional condition
- Making and feeding the children a specially prepared nutritious meal every day with the help of a local worker
- Playing games with the children, singing songs, rhymes and shape concept by colouring different shapes
- Teaching English, Maths and the alphabet as well as sensory development teaching
- Creating a colourful and enjoyable environment for the children with games, stories and other creative activities (all material, support and training for such activities is provided)

Many communities offer a variety of educational and confidence building activities to benefit young girls and women. These activities are geared towards expanding the horizon of this often neglected section of the community, giving them a sense of self-worth and empowerment.

Activities include:

- Teaching basic English
- Making women self-reliant through learning activities, creative workshops or vocational training

- Help create awareness amongst girls about their rights

If you would like to get involved in more volunteer work than your core option offers. You may have the option to further volunteer work which can include the following:

1. Additional tutoring for slower learning children
With the help of regularly updated records of school children, interested volunteers can take up special classes for children that need more tutoring at their homes. This activity can have the additional benefit of building more confidence in the community about volunteers' work and awareness about the need for regular schooling.

2. Conversation English and computer education classes to women
A variety of educational and confidence building activities are organised for the benefit of adolescent girls and women of the local community. These activities are geared towards expanding the horizon of this often-neglected section of the community with the purpose of giving them a sense of self-worth and empowerment. Volunteers contribute significantly in the areas of:

Computer training - Computer knowledge can give students an employability advantage and make it easier for them to access modern means to information and expression. Volunteers can make use of the well-tested and developed modules of imparting basic computer skills to enthusiastic local girls and women.
English classes - In an increasingly unilingual world, knowledge of English can make a huge difference to the confidence, employability and social status of an individual. With English not being the first language in the rural areas, people from a vast majority of Indian population miss out on quality opportunities of gaining confidence in the use of language. Volunteers, with their involvement in teaching English to local women can help the project achieve a multitude of objectives like empowerment and increasing employability.

3. Childcare centre, Saliyana
Situated in the village Saliyana, the centre houses around 25 children in various age segments. Volunteers can provide the special individual attention that the children miss. Some specific activities can include:

- Helping children with their homework
- Conducting sports training and games
- Creativity exercises
- General care and attention to the children

4. Maintenance of institutional facilities
During some afternoons, volunteers can take up maintenance, renovation and decoration of various work places like schools, daycare centres etc. This kind of work will not be available at all times so is an extra activity that you would carry out.

Please note: Itineraries and activities are subject to change.

Accommodation

On this programme you will be accommodated in a shared single sex room. These are simple but clean and comfortable rooms and you will share with up to three others in your room. There are a number of bathrooms with western toilets and may have Indian showers- basically you fill a bucket of water and use a jug to pour the water over you (this is to conserve water). It takes a few days getting used to but its fine, all part of the cultural experience. Besides from your personal space, volunteers benefit from a dining area where they eat food prepared by our staff, a kitchen where they can cook special meals, a common area for relaxing, watching movies and holding cultural workshops. Close by there is a small market where you can purchase any additional snacks/drinks and international phone calls are easily made within a short walk. Internet cafes are available in Palampur town (around 1.5km from the camp). There is internet at the camp, however this is not always reliable.

Programme Services and Facilities

Telephone

The international telephone access code for India is +91.

To place an outgoing, direct dialled international call, dial +44 for the UK followed by the telephone number.

There are numerous public call boxes (STD/ISD) all over India from where it is easy to make international calls at fairly reasonable rates. Mobile phones, which cost at least Rs 1700, can be purchased. Most European-style tri-band handsets can take Indian PIN cards and all our present project sites are within mobile network coverage.

Post

India’s postal service is growing more efficient, but remains unreliable, especially for incoming and outgoing packages. When mailing in India, be sure to hand your envelopes to the clerk in order that they are stamped and sorted correctly. Private couriers may also be used as they have a fast and reliable service although a little more expensive.

Internet

Internet is available at the camp however it is slow and not always reliable. In Palampur town (1.5km away), there are internet cafés with fast and reliable connection.

Laundry

Laundry facilities will be basic, so be prepared to get your hands dirty and take some travel wash with you! There are local laundry services you can use for a relatively small fee.

Meals

Three meals per day will be provided for you throughout your volunteer programme. They will normally consist of traditional Indian cuisine which is extremely tasty and nutritious. Although the food you will experience will be very different to food you are used to back home, we are sure that you won't be disappointed.

What's Included

- Personally met at Delhi airport
- Authentic Indian Meals (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner) (Delhi- just breakfast)
- All transport between projects
- Detailed orientation and sight seeing tour of Delhi
- Excursion to the Taj Mahal
- Weekend excursion to Dharmshala
- Dedicated on-site assistance from English speaking guides
- Yoga lesson
- Use of facilities
- All material required for various activities during the volunteer work

What's Not Included

- Tourist Visa
- All items of a personal nature
- Flights
- E-mail and telephone calls made
- Travel insurance

Additional Information

Travelling at Altitude

Parts of this trip go above 2800 metres / 9200 feet where it is common for travellers to experience some adverse effects on your health due to the altitude. Please see further information on Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE) and High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE).

Please note: for this trip the deposit payable at the time of booking is £199 plus 10% of the total trip cost.

What to Pack

Please note that this kit list is intended to help you plan what you may need to take with you and, therefore, you may not need all of the listed items on your travels nor it is exhaustive. In addition, it is worth noting that you can buy lots of the above in Himachal and at a very cheap price and there will be opportunities for you to shop in local markets and towns.

Personal Admin

- Visa Documents
- Passport
- Driving License
- Birth Certificate - if you have a driving license without a photograph or you don't have a driving licence.
- NHS card or a National Insurance card or proof of entitlement to your National Health Service
- Insurance Policy document or card
- Visa documentation
- Credit Card, for emergencies and and booking internal flights

General

- Sleeping Bag (for independent travel after programme)
- Day bag / rucksack (for excursions)
- A torch
- Mobile phone
- Camera and batteries
- Telephone charger with a two pin adaptor plug
- Playing cards for free time
- Diary – you will have so many amazing experiences to remember
- MP3 player and speakers (if you wish)
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothbrush etc)
- Tissues/toilet roll
- Wet wipes
- Plastic bags
- Snacks (cup of soups, biscuits etc)
- Pocket-knife (handy for general use - but dont leave in hand luggage!)

Clothing

- Comfortable walking boots
- Trainers
- Flip Flops
- A hat to protect you from the sun
- Rain coat (essential during June to September)
- Pashmina or lightweight scarf for covering up whilst visiting temples
- Clothes. Long sleeve shirts and trousers are needed out of cultural respect. Remember to bring beachwear for beach time.
- If travelling between January and March, please ensure you bring warm clothes, jumpers, thermals, thick socks etc as it gets very cold at night.

Medical Kit

- Small medical kit containing plasters, medicine for diarrhoea, head ache tablets, anti- histamine cream and any medication you will need
- Tampons, if applicable (as these are scarcely found in India)
- Anti Bacterial Hand Gel
- Mosquito repellent
- Contraception including condoms
- Travel wash for clothes

Minimum Age

17 years old with parental consent form

Flights

Your flight to India should land into New Delhi International Airport (DEL) any time on your programme start date. Your return flight should be arranged to depart between 8pm on your programme end date and 10am the following morning to receive the included airport transfer.

To book your flights, please contact us on 01273 647219. We'll do our very best to find you an amazing flight price.

It is important that once you have booked your flights you add these details to your online account or alternatively you can contact us with your departure date, the flight number and arrival time at your destination.

FAQs

1. **How much spending money will I need?**
   We recommend that you take around £70 per week

2. **What type of clothing do you recommend I take with me?**
   Whilst volunteering you will need clothes that cover your shoulders, mid-rif and length should be to at least your knees.

3. **How will I wash my clothes while I'm away?**
   All washing will have to be done by hand, so either bring some washing powder or buy some from a shop near to your project.

4. **Can I do both options year round?**
   You can do the Himchal option year round, however, the Rajasthan option does not run over the summer months as it is far too hot in the desert.

5. **Do I need a visa to visit India?**
   You will need to obtain an Indian Tourist visa before you leave the UK.

6. **How high is the trekking in Himachal?**
   The trek will take you through the foothills of the Himalaya and normally reaches a height of 3200 metres.

7. **Do I need to take a sleeping bag with me?**
   No, you won't need to take one with you as the quilts & mattresses are provided at all of the accommodation & during excursions for the duration of the trip.

8. **Do I need to take a mosquito net?**
   No you won't need to take one with you as all the rooms are equipped with mosquito nets.

9. **Will there be a safe/safety deposit box?**
   There is locker facility at all the Camps where you will be able to keep your valuables & you will be responsible for the key.

Police Check

This trip requires a Police Check to be carried out - please contact us for further information on how to do this.

Support & Advice

Your safety is paramount which is why all our programs have been visited and assessments have been conducted to ensure any major risks have been minimized.

In addition, you will have access to a 24 hour emergency contact number so you can contact one of our staff at any time should you need to. In addition our overseas partners and coordinators are on hand in-country to assist you.

Financial Security

We know that the last thing you want to worry about when you're planning your trip of a lifetime is whether your money is in safe hands. As a leading global gap year provider it's our job to make sure your finances are secure, so when you book with us you can be confident that we do just that.

Real Gap Experience is part of TUI Travel Plc, one of the largest travel organisations in the world, and these days in the travel industry, large means secure.

Insurance

Whether you're traveling for two weeks or two years, trekking the Amazon in Ecuador or on safari in Africa, insurance is an essential part of your adventure and will help you enjoy your travels, secure in the knowledge that you have the protection you need. In fact, everyone traveling with us must have adequate cover before their trip begins.

Of course you are free to buy insurance from any provider, however at Real Gap Experience, we have partnered with World Nomads to offer policies that have been specifically designed to meet the needs of global travel. If you think you're already covered by an existing policy, such as those offered by credit card providers, check the policy wording very carefully to ensure it covers you for your Real Gap Experience.

For more information on travel insurance please contact us to speak to one of our travel advisors.

Money Matters

Also denoted as 'Rs' the Indian rupee is the official currency of India. The rupee is divided into 100 subunits called paise (p) but single paise coins are rarely used or found in circulation. Coins are available in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 paise and 1, 2 and 5 rupee coins are also available. Rupee notes come in denominations of 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1000 but note that the larger notes are difficult to change outside banks. The rupee is tied to a number of currencies.

ATMs can be found in most major cities and towns but carrying cash and traveller's cheques is recommended as power cuts can leave ATMs unavailable. All major travellers cheques are widely accepted but US dollar and Pounds sterling are the most popular.

Please note that passports will always be needed when changing currency or travellers cheques.

You'll find your money goes a pretty long way if you purchase local foods and drinks.

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant 2.25 $

Domestic Beer (0.5 litre draught) 1.65 $
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 litre bottle) 0.42 $
Water (0.33 litre bottle) 0.27 $

(Prices quoted in US Dollars)

Passports and Visas

All UK passport holders must apply for a visa before travelling to India. All other nationalities should consult their relevant embassy.

Once you have booked your trip you will be provided with further instructions and any necessary supporting documents to obtain the correct visa. Passports and visas are the responsibility of the individual traveller. The visa requirements for your trip vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. As a general rule most countries expect that you will have at least 6 months' validity on your passport beyond your intended stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary.

Cultural Considerations

Greetings

The traditional Indian greeting is to make pranaam, which involves folding your hands together in a prayer gesture in front of your chest, but without bowing. The standard Indian greeting “namaste” or “namaskar” can accompany this gesture and this combination can be used to say hello and goodbye. Female volunteers are encouraged to make pranaam to both women and men, as occasionally some Indian men use the Western tradition of handshaking as a way of making inappropriate physical contact with women. Refusing a man’s outstretched hand while making the pranaam gesture is not only appropriate but in some cases it will gain you considerable respect. Male volunteers, however, should feel comfortable in shaking hands with Indian men.

Clothing

Indians dress far more conservatively than we do here in the West. Dressing in accordance with Indian custom is one of the most effective ways to show respect to the local culture and help to eradicate certain stereotypes about Westerners that previous holidaymakers have introduced. In India clothing is not about expressing individuality but expressing group identity, such as status and religious traditions. Female Indian clothing helps to reflect and define the idea of Indian femininity. Therefore, it is best to dress in light clothes that cover your shoulders and your knees; it will prevent any unwanted attention and will protect you from the Indian sun.

Smoking, Alcohol

Smoking and drinking is acceptable in India and readily available. However, please respect other people. Smoking is not permissible in volunteer apartments or the host families’ homes. Drinking is only permissible in moderation and must not impact upon any volunteer work you undertake. While we want you to have fun in your free time, antisocial behaviour will not be tolerated.

Bathroom Facilities

You will experience a range of different shower and toilet facilities. Unless you are staying in a hotel you will rarely have hot water. The cool water takes a little getting used to but I'm sure you'll find it refreshing after a hot and humid day. Toilets will be a combination of western and Asian. Remember to put all toilet tissue in the bin provided and not in the toilet.

Whist on excursions you will notice that many places do not have a western toilet and will have a typical Asian toilet; again this is all part of the Asian culture. Also, many places do not have soap in the bathrooms. It is a good idea to take a small bottle of soap gel and keep it in your day bag. This is an antibacterial gel that you don't need to rinse off. These are available in chemists in the travel section.

Vaccinations & Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad. The risks to your health whilst travelling will vary depending on your general health and the type of activities you are going to be partaking in and the length of your stay.

Since we are not medically qualified, it is recommended that you consult with your Doctor or a recognised Travel Medical Advisory Service who will assess your particular health risks before recommending vaccines and/or anti-malarial tablets and advising you on what precautions you should take.

Safety

India is not a particularly dangerous place for foreigners, but as in any strange setting, safety requires a certain degree of attention and thoughtfulness. Because Westerners are known to carry money and valuables, pickpockets and petty thieves often target them. Especially when riding trains and buses or walking in public areas, be sure to keep a close eye on your possessions. When in transit, money, documents and other small important items should be kept on you, preferably in a pouch or money belt, as opposed to in bags or purses. Valuable technology like cameras should be carried in small bags that can be kept close at hand at all times. Remember to photocopy all your documents (insurance, passport, traveller's checks etc), and keep them in a different place than the originals. If you have credit cards, be sure to keep a copy of the information and the customer service number in case they are lost or stolen.

Various scamsters and low-level con men also target travellers in India. If you are ever in doubt about the trustworthiness of someone that is offering you assistance or services, it is best to walk away. Travellers generally stay away from the truly dangerous and violent places in India, so you need not be worried that refusing assistance or attention will result in a dangerous or unpleasant reaction. When refusing potentially shady offers, be polite but firm.

Certain areas of India are popular with Indian tourists and Indian men will often go on holiday together to escape the confines of their home lives. These men are often interested in watching Western women who behave and dress very differently to the women they are familiar with. Female volunteers occasionally experience unwanted attention.

We advise that you check your government's advice before travelling abroad. For UK, American and Australian customers please see the relevant links below;
UK: www.fco.gov.uk
USA: www.travel.state.gov
Australia: www.smartraveller.gov.au

The FCO have updated their information to recommend the following for female travellers visiting India;

"Women travellers should exercise caution when travelling in India even if they are travelling in a group. Women should use caution when travelling in India. Reported cases of sexual assault against women and young girls are increasing; recent sexual attacks against female visitors in tourist areas and cities show that foreign women are also at risk. British women have been the victims of sexual assault in Goa, Delhi, Bangalore and Rajasthan and women travellers often receive unwanted attention in the form of verbal and physical harassment by individuals or groups of men. If you are a woman travelling in India you should respect local dress codes and customs and avoid isolated areas, including beaches, when alone at any time of day. Avoid travelling alone on public transport, or in taxis or auto-rickshaws, especially at night. If you have to use a taxi, get them from hotel taxi ranks and use pre-paid taxis at airports."

ATM Theft

It is very likely that you will need to withdraw cash at some point during your travels. Please be cautious when withdrawing money from an ATM and ensure that you are vigilant of other people near the ATM, especially those that offer unsolicited assistance if you card is detained. It has been recognised that individuals are operating unlawful withdrawals by placing 'traps' in ATMs whereby personal bank cards are being detained, causing the victim to believe their card transaction has not been completed, and leaving their bank card in the ATM which is then later retrieved by the thief.

If your card is confiscated or you are concerned that your card has been tampered with, please report immediately to the bank or cancel your card.

Language Guide

Here are some useful phrases in Hindi to remember when you get to India. We also suggest you obtain a Lonely Planet or language guide for the destination(s) you are travelling to.

Hello/Goodbye - *Namaste*
Thank you very much - *Bahut bahut shukriya*
Thank You - *Dhanyavad*
Yes - *Haan (ha)*
No - *Nahi*
So you speak English? - *Kya aap angrezi samajhte hain?*
What is your name? - *Aapka naam kya hai?*
My name is… - *Mera naam … hai*
How are you? - *Aap kaise hain?*
Fine, and you? - *Bas ap sunaiye?*
Nice to meet you - *Aapse milkar khushii huyii*
Do you understand? - *Kya ap samjhi*

I don't understand - *Main samjha nahi*

Food & Drink

Indian food is incredibly popular in western Europe, but tasting Indian food is a bit different than the stuff produced in the Indian down the road. In this respect the food may take a little getting used to. There are also a few cultural differences that you may need to observe. People in India tend to eat without cutlery, using either their hands or pieces of chapatti. If you are dining with strict Hindus, certain behaviours are considered inappropriate, for example sharing already eaten food and eating directly from the communal bowl.

Traditional Indian cuisine involves the intricate blending of multiple herbs and spices such as ginger, garlic, saffron and cloves. Popular ingredients vary from location to location, from lamb and yoghurt in the Northern regions to seafood in the coastal regions. In the South, more vegetables are used for cooking, along with coconut and curry leaves. In fact, most of the best dishes are vegetarian, especially when you take into account the dominant religious views of India - Hindus do not eat beef and Muslims do not eat pork. In most cases, even if you do order a meat dish, you will not find that much meat actually in it.

What is classed as a curry by western culture encompasses a huge amount of dishes in India, each with its own unique beautifully blended ingredients. You are bound to find something you like. Here are a few tips regarding food and drink:

- Raw food is subject to contamination; avoid salads, uncooked vegetables, and un-pasteurised milk products such as cheese. Fruit should be self-peeled
- Undercooked and raw meat, fish and shellfish may carry intestinal pathogens
- Cooked food that has been allowed to stand for several hours at ambient temperatures should be thoroughly reheated before serving
- Yogurt and curd are naturally safe if kept in hygienic conditions, but be careful that they contain no water, as yogurt is often diluted with water in India
- The safest food is either well cooked and hot or personally peeled fruit
- As you will generally be eating without silverware, washing your hands thoroughly before all meals is absolutely imperative.

Choosing the proper beverages is as important as choosing the proper food. In a climate like India's, regular hydration is essential, however, many beverages can be dangerous to your health. The following suggestions will help you safely quench your thirst:

- Tap water is only safe if boiled; filters and purification tablets are not 100% effective. In all cases bottled water is by far the best option. Fruit juice and ice made with un-boiled water should also be considered unsafe
- When buying bottled water, stick whenever possible to known brands and make sure the bottle has an unbroken seal. Bottled water should cost no more than 30 Rupees.
- Hot beverages like coffee and tea should be boiled fully before consumption
- Though bad for hydration, carbonated beverages (incl. beer) are generally safe
- Try to remain conscious of casual water: dishes and utensils should be thoroughly clean and dry before use; teeth should be brushed with bottled or purified water

Remember to let us know of any dietary requirements before you depart.

Public Holidays

When planning your trip, you should be aware of the major national holidays celebrated throughout the country. However, although businesses and government offices are closed on public holidays, tourist attractions and shops are almost never closed. The main impact on the tourist of these holidays is the increased competition for travel and accommodation from Indians who use long weekends to get away from the big city.

To view a list of the public holidays for India, please see the link below:

www.timeanddate.com/holidays/india/

Weather

India's climate generally has three seasons, which may vary from region to region. The hot season roughly beginning in February in the North and peaking in June can reach up to and above 45 Celsius in some areas, mostly in the centre of the country. You can expect Delhi to have temperatures at the high end of the 30's.

Monsoon season means steady rain for the whole country from the beginning of July. It stays pretty hot, and though it doesn't rain all day, it does generally rain every day. The Monsoon causes muddy conditions at best but serious flooding is also a threat. The cool season is the optimum time to travel in India, as it is not too hot and not too cool. In the winter it does get surprisingly cold in the Northern regions, whereas in the south the temperatures are beautiful.

Time

India is 5.5 hours ahead of GMT.

Electricity

Electricity in India uses 240 volts, 50Hz. If your device does not run on these rates, you'll need a voltage converter.

Outlets across India generally accept the following plug types;

Two round pins

or

Thre round pins arranged in a triangle

Trip Note Disclaimer

The information contained in this trip note has been compiled with great care and is provided in good faith. Any itinerary featured is correct at time of release. However, our itineraries may change as make improvements that result from travellers' comments, our own research or from time to time as a result of reommended travel advice.

You can rest assured that it is always our goal to provide you with the most rewarding trip and experience ever!

Our Details

If you have any questions about this trip please do not hesitate to contact us and we'll be happy to answer them.

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