

Preparing for your visit to India

This document aims to provide you with as much advance information as possible to make your preparation for visiting India as streamlined as it can be, and to ensure that you have the most enjoyable and rewarding experience in the country. It also aims to answer the most commonly asked questions about visiting India. Much of the information in this document is on the FAQ page of our website, and we have also created a much-shortened version of this document which we call Essential Information for your trip to India.

Even if you've travelled extensively to other countries, you will likely discover that things in India are quite often very different to what you are used to. Sometimes things can happen which are testing (and very amusing, often at the same time!) and regardless of how much information you have in advance there is no way to cover every eventuality.

Travelling to India can give you a new understanding of life; it can test you on many levels and also reward you in many ways. In order to get the most from any travel experience it always helps to be prepared both mentally and physically for the journey. This document will give you answers to many of the questions you may have and also provides tips for travelling safely and remaining in good health. If after reading this booklet, you are left with unanswered questions or have anything you would like clarification on, please contact your tour planner. You will get the most out of your time in India if you travel with an open heart and an open mind. We will do our best to ensure your time in India goes smoothly and gives you lasting memories that will sustain you for many years.

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Visa:

- The only site you should use for ETA/visa application is <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/> There are countless third-party sites which will charge a lot more to basically resubmit your application through the official Government of India site. Please note this official website doesn't support the Safari browser.
- The system for entering India, called ETA (Electronic Travel Authorisation) is similar to the US ESTA programme: you apply in advance of arrival and receive an authorisation to travel.
- The ETA is not a visa as such, the visa is formally issued by an immigration office at the airport.
- There are 3 lengths of STA available- 30 days, 1 year or 5 years. The 30-day type is only valid for 30 days from the date of issue so you must enter India within that timeframe. For example, if your trip starts on February 9th, you can only apply from January 10th onwards. For the 1- and 5-year validity ETAs the validity is 120 days. So for a trip starting February 9th you can apply anytime from October 12th onwards.
- The fee difference is small- US\$25/40/80 for 30-day/1 year/5 year respectively.
- We suggest getting at least a one-year visa which means you have the peace-of-mind of having this in place well before your trip, or better still 5-years as we know from much experience that one trip to India is never enough! Note also that 30-day ETA/visa is single-entry only so if you're going to visit a neighbouring country and then re-enter India, you will need a 1 or 5-year visa as these allow multiple entries into the country.
- Many Indian embassies and high commissions around the world have different information on their websites, some of which is simply out of date. For this reason, the site noted above is the only one you should refer to for up-to-date information. Or ask us and we'll help
- The application process takes maybe 20-30 minutes to complete, and can be saved while in progress. The photograph you are required to provide has to match strict guidelines: we recommend having a formal passport-type photo taken and sized accordingly by a professional photographer.
- You will be asked for contact information or 'referees' as part of the application process. Please ask your tour planner for details you can use. We typically suggest using two of our branch offices addresses. This information is never actually checked, but it is advisable of course to use genuine people's names/details.
- If you are visiting Sri Lanka a very similar system exists there to the Indian system described above. The correct and only link to use is <https://www.eta.gov.lk/slvisa/visainfo/center.jsp>

Travel Insurance: It is recommended to buy travel insurance in your home country to cover you for all eventualities of travelling as well as any pre-trip cancellation/last-minute postponement etc. We offer a free, comprehensive in-India travel insurance which can help with immediate medical costs, loss of luggage etc. This is not intended to replace your travel insurance from home but will allow you to deal with unexpected costs/eventualities more quickly while you're in India than having to make a claim via your main provider. All our vehicles are properly licensed tourist vehicles with complete insurance coverage.

Satellite Phones: Possession and use of satellite phones without prior permission are strictly prohibited in India. This includes devices that can connect to the Iridium network, as well as GPS tracking devices with satellite communication capabilities. Visitors found carrying or using such devices without authorization may face legal consequences, including prosecution. To avoid any inconvenience during your trip, please ensure that you comply with Indian regulations and refrain from bringing restricted communication equipment.

Arriving into India: You will be asked to fill out an arrival form prior to reaching the immigration counter (this is usually given to you whilst on board your flight but not always). One of the requirements is to provide a contact address, and it is usually only acceptable to provide the name and address of your first hotel- putting 'care of Indian Panorama' is seldom accepted. So please ensure you have a note of the details of your first hotel handy so you can fill in the form correctly.

Like many countries India now offers a Digital Arrival Card system to speed up processing at immigration counters when you arrive. There will be a transition period over 2025-26 while the new

system comes into full effect so you may also want to fill out the paper form on arrival too. The online form can be accessed via <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/earrival/> You will be asked to provide an address in India: we suggest using the name and address of your first hotel. You will need to select the state from a pull-down menu and then select the district within that state. If you are in doubt about this please contact your tour planner.

Generally visitors arriving into India will experience very few hassles at immigration or customs controls. Please note there is a restriction on bringing rupees into the country and although interpretations of the law vary, and enforcement may be non-existent, it is better not to obtain rupees at home before you come to India. It is a good idea to exchange a small amount of money into Indian Rupees at the airport before you pass through customs and exit the building; this way you'll have money on hand to tip the porters at your hotel when you arrive. Once you are through the last stages of passport control and customs, you will pass into the arrivals area. This varies from airport to airport; some have an internal hall where you will be met, while at others the greeting area is outside the terminal. There will be a lot of people waiting in this area and it can seem slightly daunting but in order to make it as easy as possible our Tour Executives carry signage bearing your name printed on yellow/gold paper. All the other signs will be on white paper so our Indian Panorama sign should be easy to spot (it also bears our logo of two elephants facing each other with raised trunks). Once you have made yourselves known to our Tour Executive, they will escort you outside to where your vehicle is waiting. Sometimes they will need to leave you for a minute or two to summon the vehicle; this is quite normal. It is important that while you are at the airport you don't accept 'help' from people offering to carry your bags- they are not official airport employees and will demand a ridiculous tip even if they actually do nothing!

Airports and Internal flights.

- As online check-in makes the airport experience much smoother, we do this in advance for all internal flights as standard. You will still need to go to the check-in counter to drop bags and receive printed boarding passes which are still mandatory, but having checked in before your arrival will make this process a lot quicker.
- There is a lot of variation in the rules which apply inside airports- the best guide is to expect the unexpected and be prepared for things not to make obvious sense. We will always allow ample time to ensure you get to the airport early- even if you appear to be leaving your hotel very early for your flight, we need to allow time for traffic and unexpected delays. Check-in time of 3 hours is a minimum at all large/metro airports (Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore etc) and 2 hours is elsewhere. Our Guest Relations Executive will escort you to the terminal entrance, but we are unable to escort you beyond this point as only ticket holders are allowed inside any departure area of any airport in India.
- Entry to airports is restricted to ticket holders only. To be granted access to the terminal you must have either a printed copy of your ticket or an easily accessible electronic copy of your ticket on your phone (PDF, QR code etc). Carrying printed copies of tickets is not a bad idea as it gives you a backup option in the event of phone connectivity issues.
- Once you are inside there will probably be luggage screening- this seems not to apply at the very largest airports, Delhi, Mumbai etc. Usually, most airlines will have their own machine and scanning team, but this may not be adjacent to the check-in for that airline. Sometimes the luggage screening people will ask you to remove items from your luggage for inspection- as a rule, if you are taking any electronics, battery-powered items etc. in your checked luggage it pays to have these accessible for easy location if they need to be inspected.
- On low-cost airlines (all of them except Air India), legroom and general seat space is very limited. If you are more than 170cm (5 feet 8 inches) tall it is worth considering paying a little more for an extra-leg room/exit-row seat. We can book this at the time of making your reservation.
- Personal security screening varies from airport to airport and can be very quick and efficient or slow and hard to fathom- there is little certainty about how long queues will be etc.
- Please note there are separate lines for male and female passengers. Also note that security at Indian airports is tight and there are many restrictions on what is permitted in carry-on baggage. It is best to take as little onto the plane as possible in order to speed up the process and minimize the chances of being asked to repack an item into your checked-in luggage.
- Most internal flights within India now have a 15kg per person checked baggage limit and the limits

are strictly enforced. Excess baggage above the allowed amount is charged at around Rs550 per kg (a little under US\$7) with a minimum charge of INR 1650. Charges for excess luggage can be paid in INR cash or by credit card only. Carry-on is also strictly monitored and the limit here is 7kg plus a small personal item- this is less than in some other countries. Please bear this in mind as you prepare to travel.

Useful Things to Pack:

Clothing: The climate in India is generally warm and can be humid, however, there is a vast range of climatic conditions throughout the country and at different times of year. In the north of the country the winter months from December to February can be decidedly cool and a light woollen jumper and jacket are essential. Most hotels have an efficient in-house laundry service so you don't need to bring many sets of clothing. 3 lightweight shirts, (some people find even T-shirts a bit warm) and the same number of lightweight trousers or skirts should be enough. Some long-sleeved tops to guard against mosquitoes in the evenings are a good idea- preferably in light, natural colours to assist in keeping them away. Western-style clothing is easy to find and should you need more clothes, they are often much cheaper than at home. And the experience of shopping for any item in India is always a lot of fun- both for you and for the locals!

Ladies, please bear in mind when choosing your trip clothing that India is still fairly conservative and women's clothing, for the most part, is quite modest. Although this is changing, particularly in the main metro cities, it's best to still avoid low cut or sleeveless tops, shorts and see-through material. It is good to blend in as much as possible with the locals and dressing appropriately helps with that. The same applies to men, more as an issue of respecting local customs. For this reason, shorts should always reach to below the knee and singlets or vests are to be avoided. If you are visiting ashrams or temples you need to cover your arms, at least with short sleeves, and legs. A pair of socks can be useful for walking on hot floors. If your tour includes visiting a wildlife sanctuary then also keep in mind that dark colours such as green, brown and black are the best to wear when out walking looking for animals. Remember too that early mornings in the jungle (you will often be zipping around in an open jeep well before sunrise) can be very cold- a windproof jacket is a good idea, although many hotels will be able to provide blankets should you require them. Your shoes should be comfortable for walking and offer some protection for walking in crowded places. Slip-on sandals are useful for the days when you visit temples where footwear is removed.

Personal items

1. You don't need to bother with too much in the way of a first aid kit. You can buy almost anything over the counter at pharmacies which are everywhere in India. Hydration salts (Gastrolite) are not always available so it is a good idea to bring some of these. And of course any specific medication you have been prescribed by your own doctor. But painkillers, antiseptics and even antibiotics, are very easy to find.
2. A torch (flashlight) and alarm clock.
3. An inflatable pillow can be useful for long train journeys - general bedding, including a small pillow is provided. A sleeping sheet or sleeping bag liner is great for these situations if you already own one.
4. Earplugs for light sleepers.
5. A universal sink/wash basin plug- for reasons unknown, many hotel wash basins lack plugs in the hand-basins, so bring your own!
6. Power supply in India is an be variable. If you are bringing sensitive electronic equipment, it is worth considering a simple surge protection device. Universal power adaptors are readily available.
7. You can buy almost anything you need in India. You will almost invariably have your first day in a big city or tourist town where there will be an array of items for sale at prices which are often only a fraction of what they cost at home.

Try to keep your luggage to a minimum especially if your tour includes train trips and flights (see above for information on excess luggage charges on internal flights). You will find many wonderful things to buy along the way so leave room for them when you start out!

Vaccinations: Being vaccinated is a very personal decision. Some people prefer to be covered for

everything that might happen and others prefer not to have anything more than is necessary. There is a lot of information on the internet about vaccinations but it is always best to combine your own research with the sound advice of your own doctor or a specialist travellers' medical centre. It is strongly recommended that everyone be covered for Tetanus.

One injection should cover you for 10 years.

Malaria is uncommon in most parts of India commonly visited by tourists so taking anti-malarial drugs is not essential. Advice varies however so this is a personal decision and you should consult your doctor before leaving home. Wearing light coloured clothing, covering ankles and arms and using an insect repellent will certainly help you to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. In most hotel rooms, you will see a small plug in electrical device to vaporize mosquito repellent at night in your hotel room. Switch it on at dusk and leave it going through to the morning. Ceiling fans and air-conditioning will keep the air in your room circulating, making it very difficult for mosquitoes to land and bite. You can also buy Odomos cream locally. Please weigh up all the advice on health issues and make your own informed decision.

Money:

- As with travelling anywhere, it's best to have 2 or 3 alternative sources of funds- cash, multiple credit cards etc- just in case you encounter a situation where you can't change money, or the phone network is down and credit card payments can't be processed. Please note there is a restriction on bringing rupees into the country and although interpretations of the law vary, and enforcement may be non-existent, it is better not to obtain rupees at home before you come to India.
- When changing money, all exchange rates are set by the central government so there is very little advantage in 'shopping around' to get a better rate. In most cases it is easiest to change money at authorized money exchange centres located in each major city, which your drivers can assist you. The most widely accepted currencies are US Dollars, British Pounds and the Euro with Australian and Canadian Dollars and major Asian currencies not far behind.
- Credit cards can be used at all major hotels and restaurants but for smaller purchases cash- in rupees- is definitely better and easier.
- ATMs are very widespread, but not always 100% reliable. You can access these using an account linked to a Visa/MasterCard or Cirrus/Plus networked card, definitely pays to check with your bank at home before you leave to ascertain exactly what charges you will incur by withdrawing money from an ATM in India- these can be very high.
- American Express is primarily accepted at premium establishments and top hotels but it pays not to rely on it being possible to use Amex everywhere.
- A further option is a Wise Card or similar- a card you can pre-purchase at home and load up with your local currency and convert this into rupees and use the card in India just like a regular debit card.
- Advising your bank at home that you will be in India is a good idea as this will the likelihood of transactions being declined

Tipping:

- From the moment you arrive, you will see that India runs on tipping, from the person who carries your bag, delivers your food or drives your vehicle.
- Some hotels now have a 'centralized' tipping system. This is a much more equitable way of sharing out the tips as there are often dozens of staff in a hotel (cooks, gardeners, laundry people etc) who you never see, meaning that the front office and room staff get the vast majority of the tips. Please look out for a box on the reception desk at the time you check-in. If you tip a total of 800-1500 rupees per day in such a place this would be fine, although perhaps a little more in 5-star establishments.
- If this is not the case, then for a porter who carries your bags to the room a 50-100 Rupee tip is fine. A similar amount is OK for the people who come and clean your room. In restaurants work on 10% of the total bill as a reasonable tip- there is no set amount as is the case in other countries.
- At the end of your trip (or each sector) it is customary to tip your driver. As a suggestion, 700-1200 rupees per day is a reasonable tip for the driver, but the amount is totally up to you. (This is from

the whole party, not per person). This is just a general guideline for you as there is no set amount to specify.

- For one-off vehicle services like airport transfers and the like, Rs500-800 is okay.
- For guides, a tip of 500-800 rupees at the conclusion of the service is reasonable.
- If there is anyone else you encounter who does an exceptional job or goes well beyond the call of duty, a tip for their attentiveness never goes amiss.

Personal Security: The safest way to carry your tickets, passport and cash is in a money belt worn under your clothing. While India is generally a safe place and you would be extremely unlucky to have anything stolen, it is wise to take precautions and always be alert. Small amounts of money can be carried in a bum-bag or shoulder purse. This ensures you do not need to pull out a pile of large denomination notes for a 50 rupee purchase. All hotel rooms have secure locks and some people prefer to leave their suitcase locked inside the room. Most hotels have room safes also. For air and train travel your bag should be securely locked. It is a good idea to carry a photocopy of your passport, visa and tickets. If you are unlucky enough to lose any of these valuable items, it will greatly assist in replacement.

Taking care of your health on the road: One of the main misconceptions people have about visiting India is they will ingest a terrible bug and "get sick". This in fact rarely happens if you follow a few basic guidelines and listen carefully to your body. Most hotels now offer totally safe reverse-osmosis treated water which is absolutely safe to drink and helps keep plastics out of circulation. If you're in doubt, bottled water will always be available. Always clean your teeth with filtered or bottled water. It may take a few days until your system gets used to India and the different microbes here, but the vast majority of people have few, if any, problems. Some precautions include only eating fruit you can peel- bananas are ubiquitous- or washing other fruit (such as grapes) in filtered or bottled water. Much of India's cuisine is vegetarian, and it's widely accepted that meat-based dishes carry a greater risk of illness-bearing bacteria. If you ease into your trip by eating vegetarian food for the first few days at least, you'll lower your chances of falling ill. Wash your hands frequently. You will constantly be touching things in shops or markets and shaking hands with enthusiastic children and adults. We come into contact with organisms our body is not used to but can adapt to very quickly. There is no need to become an obsessive hand washer, just be aware of it! Indians always wash their hands before eating as they usually eat with their hands. Even if you use cutlery you will still handle bread and other items while eating. Another useful habit the locals use is clearly differentiating between their "dirty" (left) hand and their "clean" (right) hand. An aside to that is that they only wave or pass things, especially money with their right hands.

So, what if you spend an uncomfortable, sleepless night on the toilet? Don't panic, it is very unlikely you have a serious bacterium in your gut. Please do not take Lomotil or Imodium which slows down the bowel and may have been given to you by a well-meaning doctor. If by chance you have a minor or major bug you want to in fact expel it, these drugs slow the bowel and thus retain the nasty things. Drink plenty of water and add electrolyte powder if the diarrhoea persists for a couple of days. Drink lassi, a yoghurt based drink which restores the bowel to normal rapidly. Black tea with lemon also settles things quickly. Have some plain rice but avoid the temptation to eat lots even if you are a little hungry. Coconut water is also an excellent remedy and easy to find along the way. Just keep drinking water and juices.

If the problem persists for 3 days or more, there may be something to treat internally. Antibiotics can also be harmful to the gut and should only be taken if absolutely necessary. All the hotels will be able to call a local doctor (who speaks English) if required. The consultation fee is very small and they are able to prescribe the right treatment on the spot.

Telephones and Internet: We can supply you with an Indian SIM card for your trip, but we need to be informed of this no less than 4 weeks prior to ensure smooth handover and connection. Most mobile phone companies around the world offer global roaming which will work while you are in India but can be expensive. Additionally we can assist you with buying a SIM/phone on the first day of your trip, but it can intrude significantly on your sightseeing time as it can be a slow process. Almost all hotels offer free and generally reliable internet. Some places will charge a nominal connection fee. In heritage

hotels and very large, sprawling properties connectivity can be patchy due to the thickness of walls and the placement of routers. Please check with your tour planner if you require information on the availability of internet options in advance of your trip.

Food: Indian cuisine- in reality, there are dozens of regional variances- is justly famous and you'll find a lot of different things available alongside the 'classical' Indian dishes you're likely to see at Indian restaurants back home. There is a huge range of eating options from Multi-cuisine in major hotels to all types of local dishes in the smaller restaurants along the way. If you would like to sample some of the dishes of the area you are visiting, ask your driver and they will select a good restaurant for you. If you want to sample local food the best advice is to be sensible- don't rush straight off the plane and dig into street food from the first vendor you see. Allow a few days for your stomach to adjust and then ease yourself into it. And always go to a busy vendor if eating street food. We also recommend street-food walking tours in many cities around the country- if this isn't already in your itinerary, please ask your tour planner. Please note that, mostly for religious regions, many restaurants serve only vegetarian food. In India 'pure veg' means no meat of any kind, nor any eggs, but dairy products are used, so it's sort of halfway between the Western concept of vegetarian and vegan diets. In certain towns- Varanasi, Pushkar, Haridwar/Rishikesh- pure-veg restaurants are more common and finding a place to eat meat may not be so easy.

Alcohol: The consumption of alcohol in India is nowhere near as socially acceptable as it is in most western countries and there are often many restrictions which exist around its sale and use. Certain cities- Varanasi, Pushkar, Haridwar/Rishikesh are the ones most commonly visited- and the entire state of Gujarat are alcohol-free, although foreigners can obtain a special permit to buy and consume alcohol in Gujarat. On certain days of the year, sale of alcohol is completely prohibited nationwide. In most places local beer and spirits will be available, as well as Indian made wine but the latter is generally not of a good standard. Imported wines and spirits are generally very expensive due to high taxes and excise. Many smaller hotels and homestays won't have any kind of liquor license as these are expensive to obtain. If you have specific questions about the availability of alcohol during your trip please consult with your Tour Planner.

Local Guides: We can pre-book licensed, English-speaking guides at all the main monuments and historical places. You can also find a guide directly but if you do this there is no guarantee of their level of knowledge or language ability. You can also tip the guide at the end of their service. Around 500-800 rupees is a reasonable tip. Guides in many places rely largely on shopping commissions for extra income. If you are not interested in shopping please make this clear- politely but firmly- when it appears you are being led towards an emporium. However it is worth persevering with some of these side trips as in many places there will be demonstrations of craft techniques, carpet making, painting and the like which are definitely interesting. And although there is always a certain amount of sales pitch involved, you are always free to stand up and leave.

Shopping in India: Most food/snacks/drinks and pre-packaged products will have an MRP (maximum retail price) printed on the label or packaging and this is the amount you will pay.

In tourist/souvenir shops however prices are not fixed and you can certainly bargain. During your tour your driver or a guide may recommend visiting a particular shop, but please note Indian Panorama does not have a special relationship with any shops or emporiums anywhere in India. Any purchase you make is entirely between you and the shopkeeper and any issues which arise are beyond our control. We will not be able to intervene in the event of any dispute or issues arising from your purchase. Even if the shopkeeper offers to pack and send any purchase, we strongly recommend that you carry your purchases with you, even if this incurs excess baggage costs. There have been numerous incidents where large additional charges have been levied to import unaccompanied goods sent by courier.

Visiting Temples, Ashrams and Sacred Places: You will notice many different forms of respect shown when people visit a Temple or sacred place. They will cover their arms and legs, and remove their shoes. We should do likewise. They will also remain silent. In Buddhist and Hindu shrines it is offensive

to sit with your feet pointed at the Buddha, the Deity or other people, especially the soles of your feet, as they are considered unclean.

Please dress modestly on the days you visit temples or shrines, uncovered upper arms and legs can cause offence. Observe how the locals dress and follow their example.

You will notice that in Ashrams it is common for men and women to sit separately. It is important that you follow dress codes and behavioural codes when we are visiting such places. Often you will be requested to observe silence. By maintaining silence you may become aware of the power of silence; this has been taught by many sages in India. Even a brief experience can be very powerful.

On the other hand, there are occasions when the celebration of the Divine turns positively raucous this will come as an extreme contrast to most forms of worship in western religions and holy places. Go with the flow- you are unlikely to cause offence if you wish to join in but equally be aware that crowds can occasionally get out of hand.

Your Driver: All our vehicles are driven by professional drivers who take great pride in their work and who know the routes they cover thoroughly. In the main tourist regions of India (Rajasthan/Delhi/Agra and Tamil Nadu/Kerala/Karnataka) most drivers have a good level of English language and can provide insights into life and the things you will see along the way. In other regions such as Gujarat, West Bengal/Sikkim, Orissa and the mountainous regions of the north, drivers often understand English but don't have the confidence to speak the language. In these areas we recommend using an accompanying guide to ensure that you maximize your experience and understanding of India. In some regions it is not possible to travel without an accompanying guide as local regulations make it compulsory to have someone travelling with you. All our vehicles are well maintained and are fully insured and licensed according to Indian Government regulations.

All our vehicles are air-conditioned. We recommend air-conditioning for your comfort and to ensure better air quality when travelling in cities, however on some hill routes air-conditioning may not be possible as it diminishes engine power - this will occur only briefly and/or in situations when the outside temperature is cooler and air-conditioning is not essential. The role of the Tourist Driver in India is a little unique; he is not a licensed guide and cannot take you inside monuments or temples but he will coordinate with pre-booked guides. If you have opted not to have pre-booked guides, he will assist you to find local guides at the various monuments. Your driver is the person you will spend the most time with on your trip and he will be 100% dedicated to your comfort, and safety at all times.

The driver is there to assist you with all your small requirements throughout your trip.

We value our drivers as they add many levels to your travel experience, they pass on feedback about hotels, new places etc.

Driving Times: In your itinerary, the driving times between the destinations are mentioned - these are a guide only and, like anywhere, are subject to changes in road conditions. You are always free to stop along the way. Beware of putting too much faith in estimates on Google Maps as these tend to understate how long many drives will take. Road conditions in India vary from state to state; we do our best to keep up with local road-building projects or major road works. Sometimes delays will occur due to strikes, weather and other local conditions, if we can warn you in advance we certainly will!!

Driving at Night: We have a company policy of not undertaking highway driving at night due to the unsafe conditions which exist after dark. If your car is booked on a disposal basis your driver is available to take you out for dinner and return to the hotel by 10 pm.

When you leave: It is now possible to convert rupees into hard currency at many global hub airports like Singapore and Dubai so the need to cash in your rupees on departure is not so critical.

Leaving India can cause a curious mix of emotions. On one hand, you may be longing for order and quiet, some particular food you haven't been able to get here and yet you really don't want to leave. This feeling is common. India has a strange way of getting under your skin even though you weren't expecting it.

Your experiences will stay with you for a long time and your understanding of them will probably grow deeper as time passes. India and the effect of your time here can be very difficult to explain to family and friends when you get home. You may find it more difficult than you imagine to settle back into your normal life back home. Your perspectives and priorities may have been challenged and changed. Go easy on yourself and don't make any radical decisions, you are in a process of integration that could take some time. Stay close to the fire that burns in the cave of your heart that has been fanned by the spiritual winds of India. This is the deep power of India, underneath the dust and the chaos you may have been touched by this power that invades all aspects of life here.

We trust your journey has brought more depth and understanding to your life and allowed you to see more clearly your own divine purpose.

If you have any questions or any other issues on the subject of your imminent travels to India, please contact your Tour Planner.
