



Travel Information for India

Passport & Visa Information

All travelers to India must be in possession of a valid signed passport that remains valid for at least six months beyond completion of their trip. Citizens of all countries need visas to visit India. There are no exceptions. Additionally if you are visiting a restricted area – Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands etc., the visa must include permission to visit these places. Please check with your Travel Agent if your trip includes visits to restricted areas. The visa form can be downloaded from www.indianembassy.org

India restricts re entering the country within 60 days of your departure. Therefore if your trip requires you to have multiple entries into India you would have to apply for a double/multiple entry Indian visa **that carries a remark that you would be reentering the country within 60 days. To obtain this waiver you would have to provide your tickets and itinerary along with the visa form.**

It is imperative that every traveler arrives on tour with the proper documentation. While Peirce & Leslie will advise you of our current information regarding passports and visas, please be aware that it is the traveler's responsibility to obtain all correct documentation prior to arrival in India.

Health Information

Please discuss health requirements for your travel itinerary with a qualified health professional at least six weeks prior to departure. In addition, a good source of health information is the U.S Centers for Disease Control (The CDC) in Atlanta, which operates a 24-hour recorded international travelers' information Line. Information is also available from your local public health department.

YELLOW FEVER

If you are arriving from a country where yellow fever is endemic (Africa except South Africa and most parts of South America) you are required to have yellow fever vaccination which must be taken at least ten days before your arrival in the country. If your trip requires you take the vaccination, you must ask your doctor to provide you with an "International Certificate of Vaccination" which should be carried with you at all times. If proof of vaccination is required and you do not have it, entrance into the country will be denied.



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MALARIA

It is recommended that you take anti malarial medication especially if visiting India during the months of July to September in Northern India, and November and December in Southern India. However, please consult the CDC or your own physician regarding preferred drugs and dosage.

In addition to anti-malarial medication, personal protection measures such as wearing long sleeves and long pants should be taken to avoid mosquito bites, especially between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active. These measures include using an insect repellent containing 20% to 35% of the active ingredient "DEET".

It is also recommended that all international travelers ensure that their tetanus, Hepatitis A and polio vaccines are up-to-date.

Since health requirements can change at very short notice, it is important that you check with a qualified health professional for the most current information concerning your travel itinerary and personal health history.

It is also suggested that you carry a traveler's medical kit appropriate to your destination, length of trip and general health. Your physician can advise you on specific items to include (such as remedies for minor stomach ailments, dehydration and motion sickness). You should include an adequate supply of any prescription medication you may require while traveling.

If you do have any known food restrictions, allergies or medical conditions or physical disabilities, which need special care, you should ensure that your travel agent and Peirce & Leslie are made aware of these. A copy of your health insurance should be available with your travel agent.

Arrival & Customs Information

Please be advised that regulation at most international points of arrival do not permit passengers to be met inside secured passenger areas (such as the immigration and customs areas). The Peirce & Leslie representative will meet you on arrival immediately after you have passed through the passenger areas.

BAGGAGE

Security in Indian airports is very stringent and all hand baggage is x-rayed and sometimes physically searched prior to boarding flights. Domestic airlines do not permit any dry cell batteries, sharp implements and inflammable items to be carried in cabin baggage. Therefore please ensure that camera batteries, scissors, razors etc. are packed in your checked baggage.



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There are several different sets of baggage allowance regulations in effect for international and regional flights. Baggage allowance varies depending on type of aircraft and class service. You should check the exact baggage regulations pertaining to your specific itinerary with either your travel agent or Peirce & Leslie.

Any baggage in excess of airline limitations may be subject to excess baggage charges. These charges are the responsibility of the traveler.

Every piece of checked baggage should be locked and contain identification both inside and well as outside. In addition do not pack valuable items, such as camera and jewelry in checked baggage. While every precaution will be taken with your baggage, Peirce & Leslie cannot be held responsible for any damaged, lost or stolen baggage or personal property and we strongly recommend the purchase of adequate baggage insurance by each traveler.

Departure Tax Information

Indian departure taxes are now always included in the purchase price of international airline tickets. In the event the departure tax has not been included in the purchase price of your ticket, it must be paid at the airport prior to departure in local currency.

Weather

Although India has primarily a tropical climate, the weather varies widely all over the sub continent. There are roughly eight climatic zones, with the monsoons coming to different parts of the country at different times.

NORTH AND CENTRAL INDIA

Generally the plains of North India have three distinct seasons and just one month of autumn.

November to March	Winter with daily highs of 20 degrees Celsius and evening lows of 5 degrees Celsius
April to July	Summer when it is hot and dry with daily highs of up to 40 degrees and evening lows of 30 degrees Celsius in the evening
July to September	The monsoon season which brings relief from the heat but also brings high humidity.



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October Autumn when the weather is pleasant with daily highs of 25 degrees and evening lows of 18 degrees Celsius

SOUTH AND WESTERN INDIA

Southern and Western India does not have a “cool season”. The summer is hot and humid with the rains coming in June and continuing through till September. Southern India also has winter rains from November onwards, although they are not as heavy as the monsoon rains. From October onwards, the weather becomes pleasant with highs around 30 degrees Celsius and lows of around 25 degrees with minimal humidity.

Snow is usually found from January through to March, only in the foothills of the Himalayas and higher reaches.

Clothing & Accessories

While traveling in India it is best to dress in layers, as even in winter the sun tends to be very hot.

During the winter months in North India, especially from the end of November onwards, you will require sweaters, sweatshirts and a heavy jacket. While sightseeing it is best to dress in layers as the day gets warmer as the sun rises. It is advisable to also carry cotton clothing and other lightweight material of natural “breathable” fabric. Comfortable walking shoes are essential.

Skirts, long shorts and slacks are acceptable in India for women. When visiting temples it is advisable to wear either skirts or slacks.

Although dress code at restaurants are relaxed and formal dress is not absolutely necessary, you may want to pack one formal set of clothing for the trip.

Sunglasses, a sun hat, and sun block are recommended.

If you wear prescription glasses or contact lenses, we recommend that you bring an extra pair of glasses as well as a copy of the prescription.

While visiting monuments you might have to take off your shoes, we recommend you keep an extra pair of socks in your handbag for the purpose.



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You should carry along an adequate supply of any prescribed medication you may require while traveling. Prescription medicines should always be carried in your hand luggage, in the original, labeled containers.

Laundry

Laundry service is available at most hotels. Please do remember to check the individual laundry return policy and pricing schedule. Please be sure to only request laundry service when you are in one location for a sufficient length of time to ensure that your laundry is returned to you before you depart.

Electricity

Electrical current in India is 220 volts. If you are traveling with electrical appliances bring along an international converter kit complete with a set of adapter plugs. These are available from better electrical and hardware stores in the U.S. and Canada.

It is suggested that you take battery-operated appliance wherever possible and a supply of extra batteries.

Email & Faxes

Most of the hotels used by Peirce & Leslie will have high speed broadband facilities as well as local and international dialing facilities available from the phone in your room. Most chain hotels also have in-house facilities for sending fax and emails. One can also find small ISD/STD pay phone booths in the busy market areas of virtually every city in India. Cyber cafes have also mushroomed in all major city market places, as well as in many smaller towns.

Local pre paid mobile phones and SIM cards are available at most airports or the concierge at your hotel can arrange one for you. You would need a copy of your passport and visa, and one passport photograph if you would like a local phone.

Food & Drink

Most hotels used by Peirce & Leslie serve a variety of international cuisine, with some of them having an excellent reputation for fine dining. When traveling in some of the smaller cities, choices maybe restricted, and sometimes it is advisable to stay with local cuisine rather than requesting European menus, though these can be arranged. Food in all hotels is safe and



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hygienically stored and cooked; however, it is suggested that in the smaller towns and cities, you avoid raw pre peeled fruit and vegetables and yogurt.

Tap water in India is not safe to drink and we strongly recommend that you always drink bottled water. Bottled water is freely available in all hotels and always kept in a cooler in the transport arranged by Peirce & Leslie. When buying bottled water, always ensure that the bottle is sealed when you receive it. Additionally, you will find a wide range of soft drinks, beer and coffee and tea, which are all safe to drink. A word of caution: Imported alcoholic beverages are expensive in comparison to the Indian alcoholic beverages.

While traveling in India at any time of the year, it is important to keep yourself well hydrated.

Currency

There is no limit to the amount of cash or equivalent that you can bring into India. The only caveat is that you have to declare foreign exchange/currency to the custom officers in the following cases: (a) where the value of foreign currency notes exceeds US\$ 5000 or equivalent (b) where the aggregate value of foreign exchange including currency exceeds US\$ 10,000 or equivalent.

The Indian currency is called the “Rupee” and the coins are known as “paise”. A 100 paise makes 1 Rupee

Coins are issued in denominations of 50 paise as well as one, two and five rupees

Paper notes are issued in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1000 Rupees

Your currency exchange receipts must be saved as you may be asked to produce them upon your departure from India, or if you need to reconvert rupees into foreign currency upon departure. We suggest that money is only exchanged at authorized dealers and banks and hotel desks. Generally all cities, large and small, have facilities to change money. Please be aware that most game parks and reserves don't have currency exchange facilities.

Major credit cards and traveler's checks are generally accepted at all hotel and stores and all major cities and most small towns have ATM's

Our sister company PL Worldways is an authorized money changer. We would be happy to assist you with your requirements.



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Shopping

India is a shopper's delight, and the range of items is astonishing.

PLEASE NOTE: PEIRCE & LESLIE ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY PURCHASES MADE BY CLIENTS WHILE TRAVELING. ADDITIONALLY PEIRCE & LESLIE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR NON RECEIPT OF SHIPPED ITEMS OR THE AMOUNT CHARGED FOR THIS SERVICE.

1. Do not purchase antiques, carpets or jewelry unless you are absolutely sure of what you are buying. Price is not always an indication of value and authenticity. **It is illegal to carry any antiques over 100 years old out of the country.**
2. Bargaining is very much part of the Indian shopping experience especially when shopping in local markets. You should be aware that unless it is a government emporium where prices are fixed, you would always be quoted prices much higher than the value of the goods.
3. Always take time to read the charge slips for credit card purchases before you sign them. You should know that for any purchase returned against a credit card payment, refunds could take up to six months to process.
4. For purchases, which are, being hand carried all sales receipts must be retained with you to produce for customs on arrival at your destination.

Photography

We recommend that you bring all photographic equipment with you including an ample supply of film, memory sticks and batteries. International brands of film are widely available, though the quality cannot be guaranteed.

When photographing people, always ask permission and offer a small fee for taking their picture. Your tour guide or escort will advise you. The exception is when taking a general picture of crowds and scenes. Photography at airports is strictly forbidden.

Valuables, Safety & Travel Insurance

Exercise the same safety precautions throughout your travels as you would at home. Avoid walking around at night and keep all valuables in the hotel locker as far as possible. It is important to keep photocopies of you passport and other travel documents handy.



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Gratuities

Tipping in India is not compulsory but generally expected. The amount is determined by your satisfaction of the services provided. The welcome letter given to you on arrival gives you guidelines about the amount to give should you wish to leave a tip.

Time Zone & Contact Numbers

There is only one time zone in India which is GMT + five and a half hours. When the United States is operating under Standard Time, India is nine and half-hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time.

Prior to departure for India, you will be given a complete list of contact numbers including telephone, fax and email addresses to assist you in the event you must be contacted while traveling. The information will also include after office contact numbers of all Peirce & Leslie personnel. Additionally you can be reached via the Peirce & Leslie office here in New Delhi.

Language

English is widely understood and sometimes spoken, if not correctly, definitely passably. Your guide or escort will assist you to communicate with people who don't speak English at all.

A Trouble-free Holiday

Your welcome package that will be given to you upon arrival will have the direct contact, and after hours contact numbers of the Peirce & Leslie personnel. We encourage you to call if at any point during the tour you are dissatisfied with any of the arrangements, no matter how small the issue may be. In most cases, the matter can be put right immediately if we or our local representative is made aware of it immediately, ensuring you have a wonderful, trouble-free holiday.