

# ESSENTIAL INFORMATION INDIA: THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH

## PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

Your passport needs to be valid for **at least six (6) months** after your journey ends and should have a minimum of two (2) blank visa pages for entry and exit stamps.

**A tourist visa is required for U.S. and Canadian passport holders for entry into India and must be obtained prior to departure.** There are currently two options available as outlined below. A&K recommends an electronic visa (eVisa).

**Electronic Visa (eVisa):** To apply for an eVisa, visit [indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html](http://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html). The current fee for a double-entry visa is USD \$100 (subject to change without notice). Do not apply for an eVisa earlier than 30 days and no later than four days before your scheduled date of arrival. Read and follow all instructions carefully to ensure a smooth arrival in India. You may be required to upload documents (e.g. passport photo or copy of your passport information page) to complete the eVisa process. If you experience technical problems with the eVisa website, try again a few hours later or the following day.

Please be aware that eVisas are valid for entry through 26 designated airports, most commonly Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai, and five seaports. A list of valid entry points will be displayed in the eVisa process. If you are arriving into India via any other point of entry, eVisas are not applicable and you must obtain a visa stamp in your passport.

**Visa Stamp:** A visa stamp in your passport can be obtained by applying through a visa processing service. While there are additional costs involved in using a visa service, this option is available for guests who prefer assistance in the visa process. This type of visa has a 10-year validity and allows multiple visits with stays of up to 90 days per visit.

Our partner VisaCentral offers easy, efficient U.S. passport and visa processing. Visit them online at [visacentral.com/abercrombiekent](http://visacentral.com/abercrombiekent) or call 844 823 1224 and reference A&K's account number 73001. Service fees apply.

Citizens of other countries should contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements pertaining to their journey.

## COVID-19 COUNTRY ENTRY REQUIREMENTS & TRAVEL ADVISORIES

India currently has no COVID-19 vaccination or testing requirements for entry for U.S. and Canadian residents. Visit the U.S. Department of State at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) or the Government of Canada at [travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories](http://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories) for up-to-date information and travel advisories. All requirements are subject to change.

## YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION & MALARIA PREVENTION

A yellow fever vaccination is only required to enter India if you are arriving from, or have transited through, a yellow fever-endemic area in South America or Africa. The CDC and WHO each provide a current list of all affected countries. If vaccination for yellow fever is necessary, you must carry an International Certificate of Vaccination provided by your physician; you may be denied entry without it. If your physician advises against receiving the vaccination because of your personal medical history, he or she can provide you with the necessary documentation for the country/countries you are visiting.

You may be travelling to an area of malaria transmission. We strongly advise that you speak with your doctor or travel clinic regarding your itinerary, individual risk assessment and options for mosquito bite prevention and antimalarial drugs. We recommend filling any prescriptions before you depart.

## LOCAL HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

While there are currently no face mask requirements for public spaces in India, masking regulations may apply in select settings. We encourage you to bring your own masks; a supply will be on hand where needed. Note all protocols are subject to change in accordance with relevant guidelines, local regulations and conditions.

## CASH & CREDIT CARDS

Cash transactions can generally be made in either U.S. dollars or local currency. U.S. dollars should be recently issued bills in smaller denominations. The import and export of Indian Rupees is strictly prohibited unless you are a resident of India. So make certain to conduct any currency exchanges within India. Major credit cards are accepted on a limited basis, mainly in the larger shops, hotels and restaurants. Access to ATM machines is widespread in cities and towns but limited in rural areas.

## PACKING LIST

Please use the provided A&K luggage tags, even if your bags already have ID tags. This makes it easier for A&K staff to collect and manage your luggage for you.

### Clothing

Choose versatile, casual clothing that can be layered if the weather requires. Smart casual attire is appropriate for evenings. Formal clothing is not necessary.

Temples and other religious sites require modest dress to enter. Guests are advised to pack clothing that covers knees, shoulders, and upper arms for select visits. You may be required to remove shoes when entering sacred sites.

- Casual slacks
- Walking shorts
- Polo shirts, casual short-sleeve shirts or blouses
- Long sleeve shirts or blouses
- Sweater or lightweight jacket
- Long comfortable skirts for women
- Comfortable walking shoes with traction
- Lightweight raincoat or poncho
- Brimmed hat for sun protection
- Sleepwear
- Personal garments
- Socks
- Swimwear/cover-up
- Foldable umbrella for rain protection and sun shade

### Other Recommended Items

- Face masks and hand sanitizer
- Sun block / Insect repellent
- Sunglasses
- Prescriptions and medications (in their original bottles and/or packaging)
- Simple first-aid kit
- Smartphone
- Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Global travel adapter
- Charging cables for electronics

### Optional Items

- Small LED flashlight
- Foldable walking stick
- Lightweight binoculars
- Small daypack or fanny pack

Laundry service is available at most hotels and dry cleaning is available in larger cities. Check costs and return times before using these services.

#### TIPPING GUIDELINES

As a convenience, all staff gratuities are included on your Limited Edition Small Group Journey: *India: The Beautiful South*.

Any additional gratuities that you may wish to bestow upon any specific member/s of your tour staff are left to your personal discretion.

For extra nights or Tailor Made services added to your main journey, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars).

	<b>Tailor Made Journeys</b>
Local Guides	\$20 per person, per day (full day)
Drivers	\$10 per person, per day (full day)
Airport Transfer Drivers	\$5 per person, per transfer
Hotel Porters	\$2 per bag
Housekeepers	\$2 per person, per night
Included Meals	Included
Restaurants or Room Service on Own	10-15% unless already added