

DESTINATION INFORMATION FOR WINGS OVER INDIA

What You Need to Know Before You Go

PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

In order to enter India as a citizen of the United States, you will need:

A signed, valid passport and a tourist visa. Your passport must remain valid for at least 6 months beyond the completion of your trip. It is also imperative that your passport has at least 2 blank visa pages available for entry and exit stamps.

The government of India offers two options for tourist visas.

One option is a **multiple** entry visa which can be obtained through the traditional application process. This type of visa has a 10-year validity and allows multiple visits and a stay of up to 90 days. **You need to apply for a traditional Indian visa if you are exiting and re-entering India during the course of your tour.**

The other option is the Electronic Tourist Visa (eTV). This type of visa allows a **single** entry for a stay of up to 30 days in India. More information regarding the eTV system can be found here <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>. Please read and follow all instructions carefully to avoid any possible complications on arrival in India. Do not apply any earlier than 34 days and no later than four days before your scheduled date of arrival.

Travel to Sikkim

If you have booked any Tailor Made services to Sikkim in conjunction with your main tour, please be aware that U.S. passport holders visiting Sikkim are required to obtain a Restricted Area Permit in addition to a tourist visa for India. This permit can be obtained prior to travel, at the same time you are obtaining your Indian visa. There is a special permit application form that needs to be completed and submitted along with the other documents required for your Indian visa. Whether you are applying directly to the consulate or using a visa processing service, make whomever is processing your visa for India aware of your plans to visit Sikkim to ensure you have all of the appropriate forms completed and submitted.

Contact our partner, VisaCentral for easy, efficient passport and visa processing. Call 844 823 1224 and reference A&K's account number 73001 or visit our Travel Store at www.abercrombiekent.com/travel_store.

If you are not a citizen of the United States, your entry requirements may vary. Please consult the nearest diplomatic or consular office of the country or countries you will be visiting.

CONSULAR INFORMATION

The U.S. State Department provides Country Specific Information sheets for every country in the world, as well as Travel Alerts and Warnings. Find this information by calling 888 407 4747 or 202 501 4444 or online at travel.state.gov.

CURRENCY

India's unit of currency is the Indian Rupee.

Exchange currency only at authorized outlets such as exchange kiosks, banks and hotels. Only exchange what you feel you will need while visiting. Save all receipts from any currency

transaction. You may be asked to produce them when you exit the country, and they are required if you intend to reconvert local currency.

We suggest travelling with some U.S. dollars to be exchanged for local currency and at least two major credit cards. Hotels and some stores in large cities accept all major credit cards, but in small towns and street markets cash may be required. If you have a “Chip and PIN” card, be careful to shield your number from view while entering it on a keypad; never disclose your PIN verbally. Notify your credit card company of your travel plans prior to your departure to avoid any fraud concerns.

ATM access is available in larger cities such as Delhi and Mumbai, however, banks and ATM's in India occasionally experience periods where there is a lack of cash available for withdrawal.

We do not recommend traveller's checks as they are not as widely accepted as in previous years. Lodges outside of major cities do not accept traveller's checks.

The import and export of Indian Rupees is strictly prohibited unless you are a resident of India.

HEALTH

It is important to familiarize yourself with any potential health issues or concerns related to your destination, and so we strongly recommend consulting the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for up-to-date information on required and recommended vaccines and medications. Visit them online at wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel or call 800 232 4636. Plan to visit your doctor or local travel clinic at least 4-6 weeks before departure to allow time for any vaccinations to take effect or to fill any prescriptions.

Required Vaccination

A yellow fever vaccination is required to enter India only if you are arriving from or have transited through a yellow fever endemic area in South America or Africa. The CDC provides 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; without it, you may be denied entry. 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(ies) that you are visiting.

WEATHER

India is a huge country and its weather conditions are affected by diverse regions which include mountains, deserts, highlands and coastal plains. In general, India's climate is hot and tropical although parts of northern and western India can be very cold from December through January. The months of November to February bring the most pleasant weather throughout the country. Days are mostly sunny and bright with temperatures cooling down in the evenings. Average temperatures in northern India during this cool season range from daily highs of 60 -80 F to lows between 40 -50 F.

Use a website such as weather.com to find average temperatures and rainfall during your travel times.

ELECTRICAL SERVICE

India - 220 volts and 50 hertz

Please refer to the “Electrical Adapter Guide For Global Travel” included in your pre-tour materials.

WHAT TO PACK

Daytime attire: Conservative clothing such as lightweight pants, loose shorts, trousers and at the least, short-sleeved shirts are recommended. Bring fabrics that breathe and you can wear in layers to take off during the heat of the day and put back on for cool evenings. Women should pack a scarf large enough to cover bare neck and shoulders.

Evening attire: Somewhat smarter, but still casual, clothing is appropriate for evening dining in city restaurants. Formal clothing is not necessary.

Visitors to national parks and wildlife reserves should note that in any season, it is advisable to wear clothes of earthy colors (browns and greens) to blend in with the surroundings.

During the winter months (November to March) temperatures in Northern India can get cold, particularly in the evenings. This includes travel to Agra, Amritsar, New Delhi, Varanasi, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, and Pushkar. Pack warmer clothing including a fleece jacket, a few thin sweaters, long pants, as well as gloves and a hat.

Comfortable, walking shoes with low or no heels

Sweater or lightweight jacket

Lightweight raincoat or poncho

Swimming suit, Sunglasses, sun block and a sunhat

Mosquito repellent

Lightweight binoculars (optional)

Small flashlight (optional)

Simple first-aid kit

Prescriptions and medications (We recommend you carry these in their original bottles and/or packaging.)

Charging cables for electronics. Voltage converter and adapter plugs

Collapsible walking stick (optional)

Note: Laundry service is readily available at your hotels and is generally inexpensive.

ABOUT YOUR AIRCRAFT

Wings Over the World itineraries all feature private charter flights between destinations, allowing you the convenience of visiting remote places with less time spent getting there. Enjoy nearly hassle-free flight departure and arrivals, flying from one destination to the next on board an exclusively chartered plane with a dedicated flight crew and no more than 17 guests. Avoid waiting at airports due to restrictive commercial aviation schedules.

Baggage Restrictions

Charter domestic flights within India limit luggage to approximately 44 pounds of baggage per passenger. All limits are strictly enforced. Overweight baggage cannot be accommodated on the flights.

What You Need to Know When You Arrive

TIME ZONES

India operates on Greenwich Mean Time +5 hours and 30 minutes.

At 9:00 a.m. in India, it is:

EST	10:30 p.m. the previous day
CST	9:30 p.m. the previous day
MST	8:30 p.m. the previous day
PST	7:30 p.m. the previous day

LANGUAGE

In India, the official language is Hindi. Each state, however, has its own official regional language as well: 14 in all. English is widely spoken all over the country. Officially an “assistant” language, after Hindi it is the most widely spoken tongue in India and probably the most widely written and read.

Please consult with your guide on translations, if needed.

AIRPORT INFORMATION

At most international airports, passengers cannot be met inside secured areas. This includes Immigration, Customs halls and Baggage Claim. Your A&K representative will greet you as you exit these restricted areas; look for the person holding the distinctive yellow A&K signboard.

Before departing, remember to tag your checked luggage with the A&K luggage tags provided. These brightly colored markers help identify you and your luggage quickly.

PROTECTIONS AND PRECAUTIONS

Use the safes where available in your accommodations to secure your valuables, especially passports, medications, jewelry, money and electronics. If you must carry valuables, keep them on your person at all times. Be mindful of your surroundings and take extra caution in crowds.

Photocopy the personal information pages of your passport; leave one copy with a family member or friend and pack another separately from the passport itself. You may want to scan and email a copy to yourself for easy, online access. This will help speed up the replacement process.

As a preventative measure, it is recommended that all luggage be secured with a TSA approved lock.

ETIQUETTE AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Unless you are shooting a crowded public scene, it is considered courteous to ask permission before taking pictures of local people, especially small children. Please be respectful of local people who do not wish to be photographed.

Photography is not permitted at some locations, which may include government buildings, museums, art galleries, private houses, etc. These areas are usually clearly marked. If in doubt, please ask.

Be sure to pack ample amounts of batteries and memory cards or film for your camera and video equipment, along with the appropriate charging cables. A dustproof case or sealable plastic bags and lens brush are also recommended.

FOOD AND DRINK

Do not use tap water for drinking or brushing teeth. Even “purified” water in open containers should be avoided. It is always preferable and safer to use only bottled or canned water.

Regardless of precautions, changes in water and diet can result in mild abdominal upsets and nausea. To prevent serious illness, avoid suspect foods such as uncooked vegetables, peeled fruit, un-pasteurized milk and milk products. Beware of any food or drink sold by street vendors.

SHOPPING

Many A&K guests enjoy the chance to purchase items that reflect their destination, and so as a courtesy, your guide may recommend a particular shop or arrange a shopping visit. Please note, however, that these recommendations should not be taken as A&K’s endorsement of the shop, merchandise and/or pricing. You assume all responsibility for any transactions that take place, including shipping arrangements that are made.

The decision to shop while travelling is a personal choice and shopping is never compulsory. If at any point during your journey you feel pressured to shop or make purchases, please immediately discuss the matter with your Abercrombie & Kent representative.

To avoid disappointment, we suggest the following guidelines:

- Compute the exchange rate and thoroughly review credit card receipts before signing.
- Take your purchases home with you whenever possible. Airfreight can take many months and actual shipping charges can be excessive. Customs delays, fees and regulations can further complicate the issue. If you choose to ship purchases, we suggest taking a picture of the item(s) and/or marking them in some way to ensure you receive what was purchased. For example, you could write your name on the backside of a rug. Determine if your shipment will be delivered door-to-door or to the nearest customs facility, as is often the case. Most goods shipped from other countries to the United States are subject to Customs duty.
- Duty taxes, if applicable, are paid as you re-enter the United States. Regardless of assurances by merchants, these cannot be prepaid on your behalf. Currently, each person is entitled to an \$800 duty-free exemption, however, may only bring one liter of alcoholic beverages, 200 cigarettes and 100 cigars.
- Keep all sales receipts for items purchased throughout your trip and try to pack all items that you will need to declare together. This will ease the Customs process upon re-entry into the U.S.
- Consult the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website for more details. <http://www.cbp.gov/>

COMMUNICATIONS

Contact your cellular telephone provider to determine if your phone operates on the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) and what, if any, activation may be required.

If your phone is not GSM-enabled, you may find that renting a phone specifically designed for use overseas is the most practical option.

In Asia, reception on any cell phone can be unreliable and unpredictable. In some locations, transmission is not possible at all.

OF SPECIAL NOTE

Visitors to national parks and wildlife reserves should note that although your guides are extremely knowledgeable and successful trackers, encountering wildlife is unpredictable. If you are on a tiger safari, don't expect to see tigers every day.

TIPPING GUIDELINES

While decisions regarding tipping rest entirely with you, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars) depending on the type of journey:

	All Small Group Journeys and Pre/Post Tour Group Extensions	Tailor Made and Signature Journeys
Resident Tour Director or Group Extension Guide	\$15 per person per day	Not applicable
Local Guides	Included	\$20 per person, per day (full day)
Drivers	Included	\$10 per person, per day (full day)
Airport Transfer Drivers	Included	\$5 per person, per transfer
Cruise Vessel or Rail Staff (if applicable)	Included	\$15 per person, per day – Gratuities are accepted on board and shared among the staff.
Hotel Porters	Included	\$2 per bag
Housekeepers	Included	\$2 per person, per night
Included Meals	Included	10-15% unless already added
Restaurants or Room Service on own	10-15% unless already added	10-15% unless already added

For extra nights or Tailor Made services added to a small group journey, please follow the Tailor Made Journey guidelines for these days only.