

# Highlights of Northern India: Delhi, Varanasi & Agra

Pre-departure information for your tour



## Passport, Visa & Entry Requirements

- To enter India, U.S. and Canadian citizens need a valid passport with an expiration date extending at least six months beyond their return date. We recommend having at least two blank passport pages for entry stamps.
- U.S. and Canadian passport holders must obtain a visa in advance in order to enter India. You may choose to apply directly to the [Indian consulate](#) for an E-Visa and follow our application [walkthrough guide](#). Or, use a visa provider, such as our partner company, [VisaCentral](#). Obtaining an Indian visa will be an additional cost.
- If you're not a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you must contact the Indian consulate for specific entry requirements.
- You can see the most up-to-date entry requirements for the destination(s) you'll visit on tour by going to [goaheadtours.com/entry-requirements](https://goaheadtours.com/entry-requirements) and searching the code INA.

## Arrival & Departure Information

- Round-trip flights booked through Go Ahead Tours arrive in and depart from Delhi (or depart from Mumbai on the tour extension).
- When you arrive in Delhi, a Go Ahead representative will be waiting for you in the arrivals hall with either a Go Ahead sign or one bearing your name. If you don't see them immediately, please be patient and stay in the arrivals area. They may be assisting another traveler and will be back shortly.
- Transfers to and from the airport at your destination are included for travelers who purchase their flights through Go Ahead Tours. Travelers who purchase their own flights, and who'll arrive and depart from the same airports on the same travel days as their fellow group members, may request transfers with Go Ahead Tours for an additional cost.

## On-Tour Transportation

- This tour utilizes various modes of transportation, including trains, planes, boats, rickshaws, and 4x4 land cruisers. To

board some of them, you may have to climb raised platforms or steps. For instance, the 4x4 land cruisers used on the game drives have high steps. Often, there won't be access to ramps or lifts. Additionally, you may have to stoop to get into and out of your seat on boats.

- Your game drives will be long and may cross bumpy terrain, so we recommend bringing a small pillow to ease the ride and the impact it may have on your body.
- A flight from Delhi to Varanasi and a train ride from Jhansi to Agra are included in the price of your tour. The tour extension also includes a flight from Delhi to Mumbai.
- All other included transportation on this tour is by private motor coach.

## Baggage Allowance & Expectations

- Please note that our travelers are limited to one checked bag each due to storage limitations on motor coaches and other transfers.
- Some airlines may impose additional charges if you exceed baggage size and weight restrictions, and you'll be responsible for any fees incurred.
- Your on-tour flights may have tighter capacity limits than the ones you'll take to get to and from India, with weight restrictions as low as 33lbs for checked bags and 15lbs for carry-ons. Be sure to contact your airline(s) for the baggage size and weight restrictions on your specific flights.
- Make sure you label your baggage and keep valuables, medication, and documents in your carry-on bag.
- Travelers must be able to manage their luggage throughout tour; porters aren't guaranteed at hotels, airports, or train stations.
- Your luggage will be transferred from Jhansi to Agra by a third-party portage company.

## Clothing & Packing Tips

- We recommend packing lightweight, loose-fitting clothing that can be easily layered to accommodate varying temperatures, as well as a light jacket or rainwear.
- A sturdy pair of walking shoes or sneakers is

recommended for sightseeing.

- You may want to pack dressier attire if you plan to visit a high-end restaurant or attend a special performance.
- It's preferable not to visit temples or other holy places with bare legs or shoulders; entrance may be denied on this basis. And remember: You must remove your shoes at all Hindu and Buddhist religious sites.
- Waterproof shoes or sandals, a swimsuit, sunscreen, and insect repellent are recommended for outdoor activities. Binoculars are also handy for taking a closer look at local wildlife and scenery.
- We recommend packing a universal adapter, as well as a voltage converter if you plan on using your own hairdryer or other device without a built-in converter.
- In case of emergencies, we also recommend packing your medical insurance card in your carry-on.

## Meals & Cuisine

- This tour includes five lunches and five dinners. They may be set menus, buffets, or family-style meals, depending on the location. Dinners also include one glass of beer, wine, or a soft drink, as well as water, coffee, and tea.
- A hotel breakfast is included each morning, and is typically a buffet-style meal with hot and cold options.
- The meal served on the optional Kathak Dance Performance & Dinner excursion will consist of family-style, vegetarian dishes served with water, coffee, and tea.
- While meat-free options abound in the country, Northern India's known for flavorful meat dishes like kebab (a mixture of meats and seasonings, skewered and grilled) and biryani (a hearty serving of rice, meat, and spices). However, the tandoor is the region's culinary calling card. You'll find everything from chicken and vegetables to paneer (an ubiquitous Indian cheese) slowly cooking in these cylindrical clay ovens.
- Meals are usually served with rice or a variety of breads, such as unleavened roti, deep-fried puri, and famous, flat naan.

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## Tipping

- At the conclusion of your tour, it's customary to offer your Tour Director and driver a gratuity in local currency. Please keep current exchange rates in mind.
- We recommend tipping the equivalent of \$10–\$12USD per person, per day for your Tour Director and the equivalent of \$3USD per person, per day for your driver.
- If applicable, we also recommend the equivalent of \$2USD per local guide.
- Tips can only be paid in cash.
- The cost of portage is included in your tour price; it isn't necessary to tip baggage handlers.

## Currency

- You'll use the Indian rupee on this tour.
- Better rates of exchange are usually available overseas—though you may want to order some currency from your local bank or a retailer, such as [Travelex](#), before you arrive.
- Travelers may bring up to 25,000 rupees with them when entering the country through an airport. Travelers may also take up to 25,000 rupees out of the country, unless they're continuing to Bhutan or Nepal.
- If you wish, you can get rupees at a currency exchange booth at your arrival airport. Keep a receipt of your transaction.
- Cash is the preferred method of payment across India. Some larger vendors may accept international debit and credit cards, such as Mastercard and Visa. This, however, is uncommon, and minimum purchases are generally required on card-based transactions.
- Plan ahead and bring cash to tip your Tour Director, bus driver, and local guides.

## Responsible Travel

- When you travel with Go Ahead Tours, you'll make a positive impact on the places you visit and the people and animals you meet along the way. That's because our three core Responsible Travel commitments—protecting the environment, supporting local communities, and promoting animal welfare—are at the heart of every tour we offer.

- Travel, when done responsibly, can have an enormous socioeconomic impact on communities. To maximize your impact, eat at locally owned restaurants and shop at small businesses. Ask your Tour Director to point out restaurants they recommend.
- Prepare for your trip. Be aware of monetary norms such as tipping and negotiating in a market; learn about the destination's forms of etiquette; and take some time to learn a few words in the local language.
- When interacting with locals, make sure to ask people for permission before you take their picture, and approach cultural differences with empathy and an open mind.
- Go Ahead Tours encourages travelers to limit their waste while on the road, especially single-use plastics. You can cut back on generating plastic waste by packing your own toiletries, using electronic documents, and bringing a reusable water bottle and shopping bag. If you need to use plastics or paper, please recycle.
- When you come across wild animals on tour, take the philosophies of World Animal Protection to heart: Don't touch or feed them, and maintain a respectful distance. The animals you encounter on your trip should be able to exhibit natural forms of behavior.
- Furthermore, avoid buying exploitative animal products, like crafts made from tortoiseshell or meals such as shark fin soup.
- If you feel we aren't meeting any of these commitments, please let us know.