



## **Welcome to Mowgli Expeditions Nature Camps.**

Here is a list of FAQ for the India Birding and Wildlife Trip.

### Quick FAQ

1. Visas - India now offers e-Visa which you can do from home. This link takes you there. You must travel within 4 months of obtaining the visa. Follow the instructions on the website and you'll receive the visa by email, print it out and take with you.

<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html#>

2. Electricity & Wifi - India is on 220 volts so you'll need an adaptor but ONLY if your electronics are NOT dual voltage. Most chargers are dual voltage. Wifi limited to reception areas at lodges.

3. Cash - there are ATMs in the airport and big cities where you can get local currency. As to how much you'll need, it will be for tips, drinks, and souvenirs. So \$200 to \$300 per person. All meals are covered.

4. Luggage weight on domestic flights. - local flights limit to 15kg (33 pounds) per person. If you will have excess of that, let us know so we can pre-purchase extra kg at a lower rate than at check-in.

5. Laundry - Available at the jungle lodges.

6. Scopes - if you are planning on bringing a scope, please let us know.

## Detailed FAQ's

Q: What documents are required to enter India?

A: US Citizens must have a passport with 6 months validity beyond travel dates and a tourist visa. The visa can be obtained electronically and does not require that you send your passport or visit a consulate or embassy of India. Click at the link below to go to the eVisa application page from the India government website. <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html#>

NOTE: Visas are valid for up to 60 days of travel. However, you should obtain your visa within 4 months of departure date, meaning you should not obtain your visa until mid-July.

Q: What kind of vaccinations do I need to get before traveling to India?

A: Standard childhood shots, Hepatitis A and B, Typhoid, and Malaria prophylaxis (to be taken before, during, and after the safari) should be taken. Hepatitis A and B, Typhoid are strongly recommended by us. While it is recommended that you take Malaria prophylaxis, several people use mosquito repellent only. The mosquitoes are less in the month of November and December compared to summer. But it's completely up-to you on how safe you want to be with respect to vaccinations. Officially we recommend that you do.

Malarone is one of the prophylaxis medications for malaria and most people tolerate it much better than quinine that used to be prescribed a decade ago.

If you are traveling to India from an area infected with Yellow Fever, you must have a certificate showing you have taken Yellow fever vaccination in the last 10 years.

For detailed information on vaccinations recommended when traveling to India, please visit the CDC website: <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel>. CDC does take quite a cautious approach towards what all vaccinations should be taken. Feel free to talk to us about this.

For those in Texas, Austin Regional Clinic has a travel clinic.

Q: Do I need travel insurance?

A: We highly recommend travel insurance, especially a policy that includes medical evacuation as this tour does visit remote areas. For a quote on insurance, visit World Nomads or InsureMyTrip.com (more expensive but insures people above 70 and has more options).

Q: What will the climate be like when we are there?

A: highs of around 85 and lows of around 60. We don't expect rain, but suggest you pack a lightweight poncho just in case. Evenings may be cool.

Q: What's the best birding field guide for India.

A: It's "Birds of Indian subcontinent" By Grimmett and Inskipp.  
<https://www.amazon.com/Indian-Subcontinent-Richard-Grimmett-Inskipp/dp/1408127636/>

Q: What clothing should we bring?

A: Summer clothes that you would put on in the month of May and June in Texas. We recommend a lightweight poncho or just in case of rain, and a light sweater or pull-over for the evenings.

In the field, long pants and long-sleeved shirts in neutral colors are best. But if you are comfortable in shorts and tee shirts, that is fine too. Dressing in layers is a good idea in the field.

Sturdy hiking shoes are good for our walks and hikes and Teva style sandals for around the lodge. No mud boots needed.

The city hotels (not the lodges) will have pools if you want to bring a swimsuit. For those on the northern India extension, casual clothing recommended and comfortable walking shoes.

Q: Where can we do laundry?

For those who require laundry services, it can be done at the larger hotels but we will only stay there one night at a time. Laundry service is also available at the jungle lodges.

Q: Is there a limit on luggage on flights?

Your international airline will let you know on your reservation what their restrictions are for checked and hand luggage. However, the internal flights allow 15kg of checked bags per person. If you know you will have excess of this, let us know and we can see if we can pre-purchase excess at a better rate than you will get at check-in.

**IMPORTANT :** Carry on baggage size:

Carry-on baggage size allowed in India is much smaller than that allowed in the USA. It cannot be more than 22" tall x 14" wide x 10" thick. And it cannot weigh more than 7 kg (15 pounds). You are also allowed to take a small backpack as a personal item on board.

Q: What kind of currency is used in India & how can I exchange money?

A: The Indian currency is the rupee (Rs), which is made of 100 paise. Major currencies such as US dollars, British pounds and Euros are easy to exchange throughout India. Most international airports throughout the country will have money exchange counters as should the larger hotels and resorts. US dollars are not accepted for payment anywhere.

Q: Can I use my credit card in India and what about ATMs?

A: The most commonly used credit cards are Visa and Mastercard. Neither American Express nor Diner's Club are widely accepted in India. Outside the main cities, it is recommended that you carry enough Indian currency for purchases and tips.

ATMs linked to international networks are situated at airport terminals, in most big cities, as well as an increasing number of smaller towns. Contact your ATM card issuing bank and let them know you will be traveling.

Q: Is it customary to tip and how much should I tip?

A: Tips for van drivers and for group meals are covered in the price of the tour. However, we recommend that you tip other service providers as follows:

Hotels and Lodges: Rs 150-20 (US \$2-3) per room per night

Boatmen: Rs 100 per person (US \$1.25)

Safari Jeep driver at Kabini: Rs 300 per person (US \$4)

Accompanying Naturalist Guide: Rs 800 (US \$10) per person per day. I will collect this in an envelope and we have a teacher and senior guide for 2023.

Local Guides: Rs 200 (US \$2.5) per person per day

Q: What is the electricity supply in India and what plugs are used ?

A: The electricity supply is 230 – 240 volt, with three round pin plugs. Most modern electronics are dual voltage and would require only an adaptor and not a convertor. We recommend that you buy the universal adaptor from Amazon.

[https://www.amazon.com/Universal-Charger-Worldwide-Adapter-Samsung/dp/B000YN01X4/ref=sr\\_1\\_6?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1538675](https://www.amazon.com/Universal-Charger-Worldwide-Adapter-Samsung/dp/B000YN01X4/ref=sr_1_6?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1538675)

or

[https://www.amazon.com/Cellet-Worldwide-Universal-International-Compatible/dp/B07QDV3QNJ/ref=sr\\_1\\_9\\_sspa?keywords=Fideewcw&qid=1694350669&sr=8-9-spons&sp\\_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9tdGY&th=1](https://www.amazon.com/Cellet-Worldwide-Universal-International-Compatible/dp/B07QDV3QNJ/ref=sr_1_9_sspa?keywords=Fideewcw&qid=1694350669&sr=8-9-spons&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9tdGY&th=1)

Please check your items and see if dual voltage. If not, you will need a converter.

Q: What mosquito repellent should I take?

A: We recommend you buy the All terrain deet free repellent from Amazon

[https://smile.amazon.com/All-Terrain-DEET-Free-Repellent-Activities/dp/B0016BFDN6/ref=pd\\_sim\\_121\\_4/138-2023701-7358508](https://smile.amazon.com/All-Terrain-DEET-Free-Repellent-Activities/dp/B0016BFDN6/ref=pd_sim_121_4/138-2023701-7358508)

Q: Will I be able to easily get internet access during the tour?

A: Wifi in most places in India is reasonably fast, except for the more remote rural areas. As we will be in the country much of the time, you can expect connections to be slower and possibly only available in public space of the lodges.

Q: Is it allowed to take photos everywhere in India?

A: It's recommended to always ask permission when taking photos of anyone, especially women. Always ask before taking photos at a religious site or ceremony, or of people bathing on the ghats, river banks or in rural areas. It is forbidden to photograph military installations, courts, security establishments, which can include some bridges and airports.

Q: Is there anything I need to know about visiting religious sites?

A: Remember to dress a little more conservatively – don't wear shorts or sleeveless tops. You may need to take off your shoes or remove all leather items (don't worry, the shoe minder will take good care of them). Check that photography is allowed before taking any photos.

Q: Is it forbidden to consume liquor in India?

A: Gujarat, Bihar and Nagaland are the only dry states in India, but drinking laws are in place throughout the country. Each state may have designated dry days when the sale of liquor is forbidden. Both local and imported brands are readily available in larger cities such as Delhi or Mumbai. However, be prepared to pay a liquor tax. Note that, as a rule, few vegetarian restaurants serve alcohol.

In the lodges, liquor is limited - local beer and wine only. Feel free to buy some liquor from duty free shop in Mumbai but remember to open it only after we fly to Dandeli. Liquor bottles need to be sealed when checked in.

Q: Is the coffee good in India?

If you love your coffee, we suggest that you bring your own coffee and small French coffee press as they often serve instant coffee in India.

Q: What languages are spoken?

A: English is commonly spoken throughout India. In fact, most children, particularly in the cities, learn English first in school. Hindi is the national language and primary tongue for 40% of Indians. However, there are 21 other regional languages, including Kannada, Tamil, Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi etc.