

INCREDIBLE INDIAN TOURS

Incredible Gujarat

Trip Notes



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(15 nights/6 days)

Trip Notes: 2019 - 2020

Incredible Gujarat. One of India's less explored regions, and one of the oldest, most interesting and varied parts of this diverse nation. Ancient Hindu, Buddhist and Jain sites, UNESCO world heritage locations, wildlife sanctuaries, salt deserts, a rich tribal culture and many heritage hotels - homes to erstwhile local kings - dot the state which has a history dating back thousands of years.

Providing a richer and more authentic local experience than neighbouring Rajasthan, Gujarat is the India less travelled - and will enthral you with the natural beauty, heritage sites and fascinating culture unique to this part of India.

Highlights

- take a walk through the **heritage old city** of Ahmedabad
- explore the **ruins of Champaner**
- meet the **tribal people** of the Jambughoda area
- rise to meet the heights of **amazing Palitana**
- relax in **Portuguese** flavoured Diu
- take a wildlife safari in Gir to spot the last remaining **Asiatic Lions**
- enjoy a night in the **erstwhile palace** of Morbi Darbargadh
- uncover the **traditions and charms of Bhuj**
- be amazed at the salt desert of the **Little Rann of Kutch**
- discover the rare **Indian Wild Ass** sanctuary
- visit the remarkable **temples and stepwells** in Modhera and Patan
- chill in the **city of lakes**, Udaipur



general tour information

group size minimum 4, maximum 10

days 16 days 15 nights

starts in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

finishes in Udaipur, Rajasthan

price includes

Arrival and departure transfers
All accommodation as specified
All transportation between overnight stops and to and from included sightseeing
Entrance fees for all sites listed as part of the itinerary
Meals as specified
Gratuities for guides, drivers, porters etc

price does not include

Visa costs
Meals other than those listed
Drinks, meal tips, laundry and other items of a personal nature
International flights

accommodation

Hotels (15 nights)

optional single supplement

If you are a single traveller, you are not required to pay a single supplement as we will match you up with other travellers. If we are unable to match you up with another traveller of the same sex, we will pay your single supplement for you. Should you not wish to share accommodation at all, but would like to guarantee your own room throughout the tour a single supplement of from USD690 will be payable.

transport

Private airconditioned minibus, auto-rickshaws and taxis for sightseeing, jeeps on wildlife safaris.

activities included

The following is a list of included activities on this trip. Other activities are optional and will be at your own expense.
Ahmedabad Old Town Heritage Walk, Adalaj Stepwell, Sidi Saiyyed Mosque, Gandhi Ashram (Ahmedabad)
Lakshmi Vilas Palace (Vadodora)
Champaner World Heritage Site, Tribal villages, (Jambughoda)
Blackbuck National Park (Velavadar)
Shatrunjaya Hill (Palitana)
Walking tour of Diu Fort and old town (Diu)
2 jeep safaris (Sasan Gir)
Aina Mahal, Swaminarayan Temple, Kutch villages, (Bhuj)
Wild Ass Sanctuary, (LRK)
Sun Temple, (Modhera)
Rani ki Vav, Patola weaving museum (Patan)
City Palace, Old city heritage walk, Sunset Boat Cruise, (Udaipur)

meal inclusions

15 Breakfasts, 3 lunches, 5 Dinners

meals

Traveling with Incredible Indian Tours we ensure that you will experience a vast array of the gustatory treats available in India. Generally, meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options. This allows you to choose where, and what to eat. More often than not however we eat together as a group. Your tour guide will offer suggestions for favourite restaurants throughout the trip.



general tour information

money exchange

As at May 2019

AUD1 = 48 INR
CAD1 = 52 INR
EUR1 = 78 INR
GBP1 = 89 INR
NZD1 = 45 INR
USD1 = 70 INR

There are many ATM machines (which accept both Cirrus/Maestro debit cards and Visa and MasterCard) throughout India. This is a safe and convenient way to access money in India, however we suggest that you bring a small amount of money in cash (suggested \$300) in case there are times that ATMs are not available. The major currencies, including AUD and CAD are no problem in general to exchange. Travellers cheques are no longer commonly accepted. Visa & MasterCard credit cards are accepted in major shops and restaurants in the bigger cities.

spending money

Although entrance fees to specified sites are included in the tour price, there are additional sights and other activities that you may wish to do. Some sites may levy camera and video fees.

Spending money requirements will differ from one person to the next. You will need to take into consideration your spending habits when allowing for drinks, shopping, and optional activities.

You will need to allow enough money for the following:

Meals – USD350 (or equivalent)

Optional Activities – USD100 (or equivalent)

Money for drinks, shopping and incidentals.

Tipping is an integral part of Indian life and is essential to a smooth trip. To make things easier we cover tips for hotel room boys, local guides and for drivers of private transport we use. This does NOT cover restaurant tips.

Tips—allow USD50 (or equivalent)

physical rating ●●○○○

You may need to carry your bag/pack up and down hotel stairs. There will be plenty of walking around towns or sites, which due to the warm weather in India at this time of year will make general sightseeing a little more strenuous.

culture shock rating ●●●○○

Conditions in India are not always as comfortable as in other countries. You may need to occasionally deal with a squat toilet, cold showers or power failure.

travel insurance

Travel Insurance is highly recommended whilst traveling to India and is compulsory for any group tour with Incredible Indian Tours.

visas

All foreign nationals require a visa to enter India. Most nationalities can apply for an e-Visa. Validities available are 30 days, 1 year and 5 years. You can apply up to 30 days before the date of travel for the 30 day e-Visa and 120 days before the date of travel for the 1 and 5 year e-Visas. The visa is issued online (you do not need to send your passport away) and takes up to 3 days. The 30 day e-Visas are double entry with validity commencing from the date of arrival. The 1 and 5 year e-Visas are multiple entry with validity running from the date of issue with stays of maximum 90 days at a time allowed with the exception of US, UK, Japanese and Canadian passport holders who can stay for up to 180 days at a time.

When applying for your e-Visa, be aware of a number of commercial websites offering e-Visas that do not belong to the Government of India and will charge you additional service fees to issue your visa.

The official Government of India e-Visa website is <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>



general tour information

health

We recommend that you consult your doctor for current medical travel information about before departure. Your leader will be carrying a basic first aid kit, but we suggest you bring along your own as well as any personal medical requirements .

The following websites have up-to-date information about health requirements.

Australia <https://www.travelvax.com.au/>

New Zealand <http://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/healthy-living/travelling>

USA <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/>

UK <http://www.travelhealth.co.uk/>

Canada <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/vaccines>

communications

Many of our hotels have Wifi, but do not rely on it being available or fast.

You can purchase a local prepaid sim card (for unlocked cell phones) and data sticks (for mobile internet on your laptop) inexpensively in India. Recommended are Vodafone, Airtel and Reliance. You will need extra passport photos for this as well as photocopies of your photo and visa page from your passport.

your tour manager

Your tour manager is there to organise and streamline your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. Whilst they are not a guide per se, they will share their local knowledge, give you suggestions for your free time and manage the day to day running of the tour.

They will introduce you to their local friends and recommend great local restaurants and experiences. They will have a broad general knowledge of India, so do feel free to tap into their wisdom. At some sites, local guides may be hired where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting.

responsible travel

We believe strongly in responsible travel. This includes being respectful to the local culture (ie dressing appropriately, and learning a few basic cultural do's and don'ts), being mindful of the environment, and leaving a positive image behind. Remember we are ambassadors for our country. Bringing a few photos of your family and home with you is a great way to interact with the locals by giving them a glimpse of your world whilst you visit theirs.

joining hotel

House of MG

Bhadra Road, Opp Sidi Saiyad Mosque, Lal Darwaja, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, 380001

Ph: +91 79 2550 6946

Email: customercare@houseofmg.com

transfer/joining instructions

Your airport transfer pickup will await you holding a sign with your name when you exit the baggage claim area of the arrivals hall. There may be large crowds here so please look carefully for your transfer.

arriving early

Our hotel in Ahmedabad is located in the heart of the Old City. A colonial style mansion, the building has been restored and expanded and is the only boutique heritage hotel in the centre of Ahmedabad. The hotel itself was built in the mid 1900s and has been owned by the same family for four Generations.

early arrival information

If you are arriving earlier than day 1, extra accommodation in House of MG from USD 135 Single/Double (or equivalent) per night per room. Please notify us as early as possible if you require extra accommodation as the House of MG is popular and can be heavily booked up well in advance.



general tour information

finishing hotel

Kankarwa Haveli
Lal Ghat, Udaipur
Ph: +91 294 241 1457

staying on

If you are staying on in Udaipur after the tour, which we highly recommend, extra accommodation is available at Kankarwa Haveli from USD 100 Single/Double (or equivalent) per night per room.

what to take

We will be on the move a lot, so try to pack as lightly as possible. The smaller your bag in India the better, as the transports we use tend to have limited storage space.

India is very conservative and we ask that you dress accordingly. As a guideline, shoulders and knees should always be covered. The wearing of shorts is looked upon by locals as akin to wearing your underwear and will limit your entry into mosques, temples and other places of worship. Loose, lightweight, long clothing is both respectful and cool. Singlets, tank tops and short shorts are not suitable attire for India.

Note that most Indian domestic airlines have recently reduced their check-in baggage allowance to 15kg. If you have heavier luggage, you may need to pay the excess at the airport for your internal flights. Excess luggage charges range from around Rs400 (USD 6) per kilo.

laundry

Inexpensive laundry facilities are offered by most hotels we use and you will be able to avail of them anywhere we have a 2-night stop.

weather

The weather during our journey should be great. Daytime temps will be warm to hot, in the range 25-30°C. Night time temperatures will be comfortable. An umbrella, sunblock and a hat are essentials.

checklist

Travel documents: passport, visa, travel insurance (don't forget your emergency insurance contact details), air tickets.

Photocopy of above documents

Day pack

Health vaccinations/medication

First aid kit

Money: ATM card (widely available and easy to access); credit cards (widely accepted in big cities); cash (for emergencies).

Money pouch

Alarm clock and torch/flashlight

Mosquito repellent

Ear plugs can be useful if you are a light sleeper

Lock for your suitcase or bag

We recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt to store your passport, air tickets, credit cards and cash. Avoid bringing valuable jewellery with you. Some hotels we use have safety deposit boxes.

Updated on: 8th September 2019