



INDIA BY RAIL

Classic Tour | 15 Days | Physical Level 2

Delhi – Varanasi – Lucknow – Agra – Jaipur – Shimla – Amritsar – Delhi

Combining the lush landscapes, culture-filled coastal cities and serene backwaters of Kerala with the rich history, tea plantations and incredible wildlife of Sri Lanka, this sun-filled adventure is full of delights.

- Discover charming Kochi
- Feel the history of Kollam
- Safari in Minneriya
- Climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress
- Explore the highlands by train

To book call **1300 727 998** or visit your local travel agent

Visit wendywutours.com.au

TOUR MAP



INDIA BY RAIL TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation, train tickets and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- India visa fees for Australian passport holders
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, meals not included, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

CLASSIC TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of "India by Rail", on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully inclusive basis so you'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'India by Rail' is rated 2 on the physical level scale. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and trains, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time
- Sightseeing at nearly all the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing several steps, often without handrails
- You will be required to get on and off various trains, boats and rickshaws throughout the tour
- Expect early starts and some long days with multiple stops

Of course, our National Escorts and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you require any more information about the pace of our tours, please contact our reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 15 days in duration including return international flights or 14 days in duration based on 'Land Only'.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

Join the tour on Day 1 in Delhi and end the tour on Day 14 in Delhi. An informal Welcome Dinner will be held on Day 1 of the itinerary. If you miss this due to your arrival time, all information will be provided to you at breakfast the following morning.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It's our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we'll make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Fly to Delhi

Meals: D

Fly to Delhi, where on arrival you will be met and transferred with other group members who may be arriving at a similar time 45 minutes to your hotel. Depending on your arrival time, enjoy time leisure before meeting your fellow travellers for dinner.

Early check-in is not included. Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.



Destination Information

Delhi - As the capital of India, Delhi is the third largest city with a population of approximately 18 million people. Its strategic location along the north-south, east-west route has given it a focal position in Indian history and many great empires have been ruled from here. The monuments and ruins of these are scattered throughout the city, often side by side with modern structures and high-rise towers.

Day 2: Delhi to Varanasi

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, begin your exploration of Delhi in the atmospheric lanes of Old Delhi. Drive past the imposing Red Fort before visiting Jama Masjid, one of India's largest mosques, and take a cycle rickshaw ride through the bustling lanes of Chandni Chowk. Continue through New Delhi, passing India Gate, the President's House and Parliament House. After lunch, transfer to the airport and fly to the holy city of Varanasi.



Sightseeing today will be approximately 3 hours on foot.

Destination Information

Red Fort - The Red Fort, also known as "Lal Qila," is an iconic 17th-century Mughal monument. This stunning red sandstone structure, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, showcases intricate architecture blending Persian, Indian, and Islamic styles.

Jama Masjid – Jama Masjid is the largest mosque in India, with a courtyard capable of holding 25,000 devotees. Built between 1644 and 1658, the mosque was Shah Jahan's final architectural achievement.

Amritsar – Amritsar, in Punjab, was founded in 1577 and has a rich history tied to the struggle for Indian independence, notably the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. It is the centre of Sikhism and the main pilgrimage destination for thousands of Sikhs.

Day 3: Explore Varanasi

Meals: B, L, D

Rise early for a memorable boat ride along the River Ganges, watching Varanasi come to life as pilgrims gather along its ancient ghats. Return to your hotel for breakfast before visiting Bharat Mata Temple, unusual for its large marble relief map of India rather than traditional religious deities.



After lunch, travel to Sarnath, where Buddha is believed to have delivered his first sermon after attaining enlightenment. Explore this important Buddhist pilgrimage site before returning to Varanasi.

This evening, head back to the ghats to experience the atmospheric Ganga Aarti ceremony, where priests perform an elaborate ritual of fire, prayer and music on the banks of the Ganges.

Today you will spend approximately 5 hours on foot, with an early morning start.

Destination Information

Ghats of Varanasi - The ghats are the long stretch of steps leading down to the water on the western banks of the River Ganges. Most are used for bathing, but there are some 'burning ghats' where public cremations are held.

Bharat Mata Mandir - A unique temple dedicated to Bharat Mata (Mother India) which houses a relief map of India, carved out of marble.

Sarnath - Sarnath is the fabled place where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon to his disciples expounding the principles of Buddhism. The ruins here date back as far as the 3rd century BC.

Ceremony of Ganga Aarti - An evening ceremony conducted on the banks of the river Ganges. Aarti means divine light, and this ceremony is filled with song, prayer and ritual.

Day 4: Travel to Lucknow

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, transfer to the railway station and board the Vande Bharat Express for your first major rail journey, travelling 4 and a half hours from Varanasi to Lucknow. A packed lunch will be provided for the journey.



Arrive in Lucknow during the early afternoon and later visit The Residency, for approximately 1 and a half hours, whose atmospheric ruins bear witness to the Siege of Lucknow during the Indian Rebellion of 1857.

Destination Information

Lucknow - An elegant city renowned for its rich Nawabi heritage, graceful architecture and celebrated cuisine. Once the seat of the Nawabs of Awadh, the city is filled with reminders of its regal past, from magnificent Islamic monuments and atmospheric historic quarters to the poignant ruins of the British Residency. Known for its refined traditions, intricate handicrafts and legendary Awadhi food, Lucknow offers a fascinating contrast to India's better-known Golden Triangle cities.

The Residency - One of Lucknow's most poignant historic sites, its atmospheric ruins offer a fascinating insight into the city's colonial past. Once home to the British Resident and his staff, the complex became the setting for the Siege of Lucknow during the Indian Rebellion of 1857. Today, its ruined buildings, gardens and battle-scarred walls have been carefully preserved, creating a powerful reminder of the events that shaped this turbulent period of Indian history.

Day 5: Lucknow to Agra

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, your exploration of Lucknow starts with a visit to the magnificent Bara Imambara, an imposing 18th century complex built by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula. You will then continue to the ornate Chota Imambara, known for its elaborate decoration and distinctive architecture.



After lunch, transfer to the railway station and board the Shatabdi Express for a 4 hour journey to Tundla. On arrival, continue 45 minutes by road to Agra.

Your sightseeing will last approximately 3 hours today.

Destination Information

Bara Imambara - One of Lucknow's most impressive architectural landmarks, built in the 18th century by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula. This vast complex is renowned for its grand central hall, striking Mughal-inspired architecture and the fascinating Bhul Bhulaiya, a maze of narrow corridors and passageways within its upper levels. Rich in history and intricate design, it offers a fascinating glimpse into the grandeur of Lucknow's Nawabi era.

Chota Imambara – An elegant monument built in the 19th century by Nawab Muhammad Ali Shah. Known for its ornate interiors, the complex is richly decorated with chandeliers, intricate calligraphy and colourful detailing, earning it the nickname 'Palace of Lights' when illuminated during special occasions. Its graceful domes, minarets and reflective pools offer another glimpse into the splendour of Lucknow's Nawabi heritage.

Agra – Home to the world-famous Taj Mahal, Agra rose to fame in the medieval period as the capital of the Mughal Empire and was beautified with gardens, waterfalls, bathhouses and canals. In modern times, the city of Agra houses a thriving carpet industry.

Day 6: Agra

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, visit imposing Agra Fort, a magnificent red sandstone fortress that served as an important residence of the Mughal emperors. Explore its palaces, courtyards and halls while discovering the history of the Mughal dynasty.



After lunch, enjoy some time at leisure before visiting the incomparable Taj Mahal in the late afternoon. Admire the changing light across its gleaming white marble and learn the story of Emperor Shah Jahan and his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal.

Sightseeing today will last approximately 5 and a half hours.

Destination Information

Agra Fort - Situated on the west bank of the Yamuna River and built by Emperor Akbar between 1565 and 1573. Its imposing red sandstone ramparts form a crescent along the riverfront and encompass an enormous complex of courtly buildings, ranging in style from the early eclecticism of Akbar to the sublime elegance of Shah Jahan. The barracks to the north are British additions from the 19th century. A deep moat, once filled with water from the Yamuna River surrounds the fort.

Taj Mahal - One of the most recognisable monuments in the world, The Taj Mahal is a white marble monument found on the southern bank of the Yamuna River. The Taj Mahal was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan between the years 1631 -1648 in memory of his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in 1631.

Day 7: Agra to Jaipur**Meals: B, L, D**

Enjoy a leisurely morning in Agra. There is also the opportunity to join an optional early morning excursion to Mehtab Bagh, travelling by tuk-tuk for views of the Taj Mahal from across the Yamuna River.



After lunch, transfer to the railway station and board the 4 hour train to Jaipur.

Destination Information

Jaipur – Known as the 'Pink City' for the colour of the buildings in the old town. Jaipur was founded in 1727 as Mughal power within India was declining. The then Maharaja Jai Singh moved his capital from Amber Fort down onto the plain below. The city is now the capital of Rajasthan State and commonly called the 'Pink City' because of the pink paint on all the buildings in the old city area. This was apparently done to imitate the magnificent, red sandstone buildings of the Mughals and to impress the Prince of Wales when he visited Jaipur in 1876.

Day 8: Jaipur**Meals: B, L, D**

Today you will discover Jaipur's magnificent royal heritage, beginning at hilltop Amber Fort. Ascend by jeep before exploring its courtyards, ornate palaces and glittering Sheesh Mahal, or Hall of Mirrors. Return towards the city and meet local artisans during a pottery experience and gem-cutting demonstration.



After lunch, visit the impressive City Palace, still home to Jaipur's former royal family, before exploring Jantar Mantar, a UNESCO-listed 18th-century astronomical observatory.

This evening, enjoy dinner with a local family for a more personal introduction to Rajasthani life and hospitality.

Today's sightseeing is approximately 5 hours. *Amber Fort involves cobbled and uneven surfaces, ramps and steps, while City Palace and Jantar Mantar require extended periods of walking and standing.*

Destination Information

Amber Fort - Built from yellow and pink sandstone and white marble, Amber Fort was built in the 16th century by Raja Man Singh. Inside the fort the Hall of Victory houses the famed Sheesh Mahal.

Maharaja's City Palace – Located in the heart of the Pink City and built in the 18th century by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, the palace houses courtyards, gardens, and intricately decorated buildings, including the Chandra Mahal and Mubarak Mahal. The City Palace remains a symbol of Rajasthan's regal heritage, offering a glimpse into the opulent lifestyle of Jaipur's former rulers.

Jantar Mantar Observatory - The largest stone and marble crafted observatory in the world is located just outside the City Palace. The observatory has 17 large instruments, many of them still in working condition.

Day 9: Jaipur to Shimla

Meals: B, L, D

Rise early and transfer to Jaipur Airport for your flight to Chandigarh. On arrival, continue 4 hours by road into the Himalayan foothills towards Shimla, stopping for lunch en route. Watch the scenery change as you climb into the mountains, arriving at your hotel during the late afternoon.



Destination Information

Shimla - The capital city of the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, is a picturesque hill station nestled in the Himalayan foothills and known for its natural beauty and colonial architecture.

Day 10: Shimla Toy Train

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, experience a section of the historic Kalka–Shimla Toy Train, travelling 45 minutes through the picturesque Himalayan foothills to Tara Devi. Rejoin your vehicle and return towards Shimla, stopping en route to visit Sankat Mochan Temple.

After lunch, discover Shimla's colonial heritage with visits to the Viceregal Lodge and historic Gaiety Theatre, before exploring Scandal Point and strolling along the famous Mall Road. Enjoy some free time to browse the local market before returning to your hotel.



You will be on your feet for approximately 4 and a half hours. *Shimla is a hilly destination, so expect slopes, steps and uneven surfaces, particularly around Mall Road and during the sightseeing visits.*

Destination Information

Sankat Mochan Temple – A peaceful Hindu temple set amid the forested hills of Shimla, dedicated to Lord Hanuman. Perched on a hillside overlooking the surrounding valleys, the temple is known for its tranquil atmosphere and, on a clear day, beautiful views towards Shimla and the Himalayan landscape. Colourful shrines and the scent of incense add to the spiritual atmosphere, offering an insight into local Hindu traditions.

Viceregal Lodge - One of Shimla's most impressive colonial landmarks. Once the summer residence of the British Viceroy of India, this striking grey-stone building stands amid beautifully landscaped gardens with views across the surrounding hills. Explore its elegant interiors and learn about the important role it played during the final years of British rule and the events leading to India's independence.

Gaiety Theatre - One of Shimla's most distinctive colonial-era landmarks, standing on the historic Mall Road. Dating from the late 19th century, this elegant Gothic-style theatre was once at the heart of the city's social and cultural life during the British Raj. Its intimate auditorium and period architecture offer a fascinating glimpse into Shimla's theatrical heritage and its days as the summer capital of British India.

Day 11: Shimla to Amritsar

Meals: B, L, D

Leave Shimla this morning and descend from the Himalayan foothills, continuing across the plains towards Amritsar. Stop for lunch en route before arriving at your hotel during the late afternoon.

After dinner, you may choose to join your guide for the Palki Ceremony at the Golden Temple. During this deeply spiritual nightly ritual, the Guru Granth Sahib, the sacred scripture of Sikhism, is ceremonially carried to its resting place.



Today is a long travel day, with your journey lasting approximately 7 hours, and then a late finish after the ceremony.

Destination Information

Amritsar – A vibrant city in the heart of Punjab, renowned for its deep spiritual traditions, rich history and warm hospitality. Bustling streets, colourful markets and the aromas of Punjabi cooking give the city an infectious energy, while its strong sense of community and culture offers visitors an authentic insight into life in this fascinating corner of northern India.

Day 12: Amritsar

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, explore Amritsar, beginning at the magnificent Golden Temple, Sikhism's holiest shrine. Continue to nearby Jallianwala Bagh, an important memorial to those who lost their lives here in 1919. Next, discover another side of the city on an Amritsar food walk, sampling traditional Punjabi specialities while learning about their origins, preparation and place in local culture.



After lunch, visit the Partition Museum, which tells the human stories behind the Partition of India in 1947 through photographs, documents, artefacts and personal accounts.

You will be out exploring for approximately 6 hours today. *Expect busy streets, periods of standing and some uneven surfaces. Shoes must be removed and heads covered when entering the Golden Temple.*

Destination Information

Golden Temple - The spiritual heart of Sikhism, renowned for its striking golden façade reflected in the surrounding sacred pool. Despite welcoming thousands of pilgrims and visitors each day, the complex has a remarkable sense of spirituality and community, offering a fascinating insight into the Sikh faith and its traditions of equality, hospitality and service.

Jallianwala Bagh - A poignant memorial commemorating those who lost their lives in the 1919 Amritsar massacre, a pivotal event in India's struggle for independence. The peaceful gardens provide space for reflection, while preserved features and exhibits help tell the story of the events that unfolded here and their lasting significance in modern Indian history.

Partition Museum - Explores the human impact of the 1947 Partition of India, which resulted in one of the largest migrations in modern history. Through personal stories, photographs, letters, documents and treasured possessions, the museum provides a moving insight into the experiences of the millions of people whose lives were transformed by the division of the subcontinent.

Day 13: Amritsar to Delhi

Meals: B, L, D

After an early breakfast, transfer to Amritsar railway station and board the Vande Bharat Express for the 5 and a half hour journey back to Delhi. A packed lunch will be provided.

Arrive in Delhi during the early afternoon and visit Humayun's Tomb, a magnificent example of Mughal architecture and an architectural precursor to the Taj Mahal. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

**Destination Information**

Humayun's Tomb – A magnificent 16th-century mausoleum in Delhi and one of the finest examples of early Mughal architecture. Built from striking red sandstone and white marble and surrounded by elegant formal gardens, its grand domes, arches and symmetrical design later influenced the architecture of the Taj Mahal. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it offers a fascinating glimpse into the artistic splendour of the Mughal era.

Days 14 - 15: Depart Delhi

Meals: B

Any time before your flight is at leisure. You will be transferred from your hotel to the airport, according to the departure time of your international flight.

Late check-out is not included. Additional nights' before and after your tour can be arranged. Please contact our Reservations team to book.



INDIA TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

Entry visas are required by all visitors to India and Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. Please be advised that your passport must have at least six months validity left on it when you arrive back in Australia.

All guests travelling to India must complete a mandatory digital e-Arrival card 72 hours prior to their arrival. The form can be completed and submitted online at indianvisaonline.gov.in/earrival/. Once completed, Travellers will receive a QR code to display upon arrival.

For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website <https://www.wendywutours.com.au/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/>

Please note, the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa.

Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items.

INSURANCE:

It is a condition of your booking that you are insured for the duration of your trip. We recommend comprehensive travel insurance to cover cancellation, medical requirements, luggage, repatriations and additional expenses. At a minimum, the policy is required to cover medical requirements including medical evacuations / repatriations. The choice of insurer is yours.

We strongly suggest you purchase insurance at the time you pay your deposit. This is because cancellation fees and charges are payable from that time. We may request you to provide evidence that you have taken out and paid for a policy to comply with this condition. If you fail to provide a certificate of currency of insurance within a reasonable time after our request, then this will be deemed a cancellation by you and standard cancellation fees will apply.

DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA:

Although India is developing quickly, it still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in Australia. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in Australia; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort or Local Guides.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions that demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone so we aim to take you to places that hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

EATING IN INDIA:

Indian cuisine is one of the most influential, diverse and flavoursome culinary styles in the world. Indian dishes incorporate many spices and seasoning to create an explosion of flavours. Though Indian cuisine can vary greatly from the Indian food we get in Australia, it is important to keep an open mind and be adventurous. All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our classic group tours, from dinner on the arrival day until breakfast on the day of departure. Please be aware that dishes selected for your meals reflect the cooking styles and signature dishes of the local area you are in.

Dishes served in restaurants on our group tours are varied. Some will be vegetable-based with meat mixed in, and a few will be meat-based. Our restaurants are well aware of the western palate – there are plenty of non-spiced options. When eating meals on group tours, you will usually be seated around a large table with other tour members. Dishes will be served in the traditional ‘family style’; meaning that various dishes will be laid out in the centre of the table. These dishes are intended to be shared amongst the group – there is always more than enough to feed everybody.

Please read your travel guide, which you will receive with your final documents for more information about eating in India. We recommend that when it comes to Indian food, you stay open minded and try to be adventurous!

ACCOMMODATION:

All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, and a telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your Local Guide or National Escort.

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort, or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town or a heritage-type hotel. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between Australia and India. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met.

Please be aware that there are heightened security measures being carried out at all hotels, on guests and vehicles entering the properties.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms due to domestic flight luggage restrictions. Excess luggage can be paid locally. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Main and inner city roads in India have a reputation for being very congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads in India have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

Transport in Shimla & Amritsar will be in separate 4WD vehicles (4 passengers per vehicle).

Trains: All of the trains included on our "India by Rail" are day-time journeys in air conditioned chair carriages, except for the 45 minute toy train in Shimla where air-conditioning is not available. Your guide will arrange time prior to board to purchase snacks for the journey.

Please take note:

- The train carriages are shared, so always be mindful of your personal belongings.
- Each train coach has toilet facilities, located at either end of the coach. One is western style, while the other is Indian style.
- We recommend you carry tissues/toilet paper and hand sanitisers.

Baggage on board trains: The maximum baggage measurement per passenger is 48 inches (123cm). If a piece of baggage exceeds any one of the dimensions, it must be booked and carried in the brake van rather than in the passengers' compartment. Luggage handling porters will be arranged while embarking and disembarking from the trains.

Facilities onboard the trains:

	VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS TRAINS	SHATABDI EXPRESS / GATIMAAN EXPRESS TRAINS	EXPRESS TRAINS (AGRA FORT - JAIPUR)
Economy Class	✓	✓	✓
Airline style seating (3:2 alignment or airline style rotatable seats)	✓	✓	✓
Catering facilities	✓	✓	✗
Observation facilities (e.g. large windows)	✓	✓	✓
Electrical outlets	✓	✓	✓
Baggage facilities	✓	✓	✓
Bio-vacuum toilets	✓	✓	✓

APPROPRIATE DRESS:

When visiting temples or mosques, both men and women should dress in conservative, non-revealing clothing. Full-length trousers with a shirt or t-shirt for men; and trousers or skirts well below the knee with a top that covers the shoulders and upper arms for women. Women might also consider carrying a 'modesty shawl' in their daypack – this could be a sarong or light scarf – which they can wear over their shoulders and heads to feel more comfortable while sightseeing at mosques. When visiting Jain temples, you must not wear or take in any leather items such as belts, watches, camera straps, purses and shoes.

Religious sites and homes throughout India – for Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Muslims, or Buddhists to name a few – require all visitors to remove their shoes to enter. Even if you then need to walk outdoors, over hot or rough ground, you will not be allowed to wear shoes. You will often find shoe storage rooms near the entrance of a site where it is customary to leave your shoes near the entrance. Occasionally there are 'shoe minders' who will offer to keep your shoes safe for a 'tip' – this is not compulsory so each customer can choose to tip for this service or not. If you do not want to remove your shoes, you will have to remain outside. We recommend shoes that easily slip on and off, and carry a pair of thick, old socks in your day pack, which you can wear to protect your feet from any rough or hot surfaces.

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and India is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed amongst your main service providers (for example local guides and drivers) throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the national escort. Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants or hotel porters that are taking luggage to your room, is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

GROUP SIZE:

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by both a National Escort and local guides. There will be no more than 18 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu our groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides only.

CLIMBING STEPS:

Sightseeing at nearly all of the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of steps. These palaces were built to provide defense against potential invaders so nearly all of them stand on top of a hill, while the interiors have layers of narrow hallways and steps to slow down the advance of enemies once they were inside. The steps tend to be quite large, not level and sometimes without handrails. Hindu and Buddhist temples or pagodas also tend to be built at an elevation, as this is the most auspicious position according to ancient beliefs.

This means you sometimes need to walk from the bus park to the entrance, and/or need to climb some steps inside.

People with knee or hip injuries, who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smartraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

Updated: August 2026