



## WILDLIFE OF INDIA

Go Beyond Tour | 14 Days | Physical Level 2  
Delhi – Kanha – Bandhavgarh – Khajuraho - Agra – Delhi

This tour offers a complete immersion into India's extraordinary blend of natural wonders, wildlife, historical richness, and cultural heritage, ensuring a fulfilling journey. Delve into the diverse landscapes of India and cultural gems, and witness magnificent wildlife in various national parks while admiring awe-inspiring architectural marvels.

- Rickshaw ride to the market
- Enjoy walking safari's with Naturalists
- Spot the majestic Bengal tiger
- Explore Panna National Park
- Visit the temples of Khajuraho
- Marvel at the Taj Mahal

---

## TOUR MAP



---

## WILDLIFE OF INDIA TOUR INCLUSIONS:

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

The only thing 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.

---

## GO BEYOND TOURS:

Venture off the beaten track to explore fascinating destinations away from the tourist trail. You will discover the local culture in depth and see sights rarely witnessed by other travellers. These tours take you away from the comforts of home but will reward with unique culture, interactions with local people the experiences of a lifetime.

## 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. 'Wildlife of India' 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 boats, 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 sizes of boats and rickshaws throughout the tour

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 14 days in duration including an overnight international flight in one direction as this is the most likely flight option from Australia.

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. Please email your international flight times to [info@wendywutours.com.au](mailto:info@wendywutours.com.au) so we can arrange your transfers accordingly.

Join the tour on Day 1 in Delhi and end the tour on Day 13 also in Delhi. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

## 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: Arrive Delhi**

Meals: D

Fly overnight to Delhi, where on arrival you will be met and transferred 45 minutes to your hotel. You have the rest of the day at leisure before meeting your fellow travellers for dinner.



### **Destination Information**

**Delhi** - As the capital of India, Delhi is the third largest city with a population of approximately 18million 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: Explore Delhi**

Meals: B,L,D

After breakfast embark on a whirlwind journey through the heart of Delhi, beginning with a drive past the iconic Red Fort, then explore Old Delhi with a rickshaw ride through the bustling streets to reach the aromatic Khari Baoli Spice Market.

Continue your exploration with a visit to the majestic Jama Masjid whilst nearby, the Lakshmi Narayan Hindu Temple stands as a testament to the coexistence of diverse faiths in India. Pause at India Gate and the Mahatma at Gandhi Smriti,



before driving past the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the official residence of the President of India, and the stately Parliament House. End the day with a visit to Qutab Minar and the enigmatic Iron Pillar, both testaments to India's architectural and metallurgical prowess.

Sightseeing today will be approximately 4 hours on foot.

### **Destination Information**

**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.

**India Gate** - Located at the end of the Rajpath, India Gate is a moving memorial to the 90,000 Indian servicemen who dies in World War 1.

**Ghandi Smriti** – A museum dedicated to Mahatma Ghandi. It is the location where Mahatma Ghandi lived the last 144 days and was assassinated on January 30, 1948.

**Rashtrapati Bhavan** – The official residence of the President of India.

**Qutab Minar** – Built in the 12th Century, this tower of victory is gracefully hand-carved along its entire height of 73m.

---

**Day 3: Travel to Kanha National Park**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast board a 1.45 minute flight to Nagpur, continuing with a picturesque 6 hour drive to Kanha. The drive to Kanha is comprised of lush greenery, winding roads, and glimpses of rural life along the way, with stops along the way to stretch your legs.



Upon arrival check-in and relax until dinner.

*Please note: You will need your passport to gain entry to the national park.*

**Destination Information**

**Kanha National Park** – Also known as Kanha Tiger Reserve is most famous for its Swamp Deer population, and has been instrumental in the survival and protection of species against extinction. The jungles of Kanha inspired Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book". The award-winning 'Land of the Tiger' by National Geographic was shot here, and the park won global acclaim for saving the endangered Barasingha (swamp deer). While tiger spotting remains the top priority for most guests, the park is more than just about tigers. The terrain is largely covered with bamboo and sal trees, grasslands, ravines and water bodies. Besides tigers, some of the other jungle denizens are leopards, different varieties of deer, wild boars, bison, sloth bears, wild dogs, langurs (monkey), jackals, foxes and wild cats. Kanha also has around 300 species of birds as well as many reptiles and amphibians.

---

**Day 4: Kanha National Park**

Meals: B, L, D

Begin your day with a morning walking safari in the Buffer Zone of the National Park, accompanied by a knowledgeable lodge naturalist. Visit the tribal community to see Mowgli's "man village" and Tribal artists. This safari includes a nature trek and a village walk.



In the afternoon, experience a 3.5 – 4 hour safari into the heart of the National Park. As you venture deep into the park's wilderness, the thrill of spotting elusive creatures like tigers, leopards and a myriad of other wildlife, intensifies.

**Day 5: Full Day Safari Adventure**

Meals: B, L, D

Embrace the wild beauty of Kanha National Park with both morning and afternoon safaris, promising a day filled with exhilarating wildlife encounters. As the sun rises, you will set off in open-air 4x4 vehicles, in search of the inhabitants of the jungle, from the majestic Sher Khan to bumbling Baloo - the sloth bear.



After a rest and lunch at the Jungle Lodge, set out once more on an afternoon safari. The jungle takes on a different character in the warm afternoon sun, casting enchanting shadows and revealing hidden secrets. Your senses are on high alert as you track the sounds and movements of the wild, hoping for more awe-inspiring encounters.

*Kindly note details provided under Travel Information, outlining rules of the National Parks.*

**Day 6: Travel to Bandhavgarh National Park**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast you depart for Bandhavgarh National Park. This is 6 hour drive and a packed lunch will be provided. The drive to Bandhavgarh passes through the lush and picturesque landscapes of central India, a mix of forests, hills, and open plains. The highway connecting the two national parks is well-maintained, however there are some stretches of narrow and winding roads. Along the way, you will have several opportunities to stop at small towns and villages, offering a glimpse into the local culture and cuisine.



On arrival, check-in before setting off on a 4 hour safari.

*Please note: You will need your passport to gain entry to the national park.*

**Destination Information**

**Bandhavgarh** – Located in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh, India. It is one of the country's most renowned tiger reserves and is known for its rich biodiversity, particularly its population of Bengal tigers, making it a crucial hub for tiger conservation efforts. This park boasts diverse flora and fauna within its boundaries, featuring not only majestic tigers but also leopards, sloth bears, deer, wild boars, and a myriad of bird species. The landscape varies from dense forests to grasslands and bamboo groves, offering a diverse habitat for its wildlife residents. Additionally, Bandhavgarh is steeped in history, with the ancient Bandhavgarh Fort nestled within, offering captivating views of the park. This park is committed to tiger conservation, being part of India's Project Tiger initiative, ensuring the preservation of this iconic species.

**Day 7: Safaris in Bandhavgarh National Park**

Meals: B, L, D

Today you have a morning and afternoon safari. The park's diverse landscapes create an unforgettable wildlife experience, with each safari presenting the possibility of encountering new surprises, from majestic predators to graceful herbivores.

The morning safari is undertaken from 6am until about 10am and the afternoon safari is 2:30pm until dusk at 6pm.

**Day 8: Head to Khajuraho**

Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy a thrilling morning walking safari in the Panpatha Wildlife Sanctuary, an integral part of the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve. Lunch will be at the hotel before departing for Khajuraho.

Depart on a 5 hour drive to Khajuraho that offers a change of scenery, transitioning from the rugged terrain of Bandhavgarh to the cultural richness of Khajuraho. Khajuraho offers ancient temples renowned for their stunning and intricate erotic sculptures, showcasing the artistic brilliance of the Chandela dynasty.



On arrival, check-in to your hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

**Destination Information**

**Khajuraho** – A small village well known for its UNESCO World Heritage listed sculptured temples dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu, and Jain religions.

**Day 9: Panna National Park**

Meals: B, L, D

Drive 45 minutes to Panna, a place of pristine natural beauty and wildlife wonders. Enjoy a memorable morning boat ride on the Ken River, which flows gracefully through the heart of the Panna Tiger Reserve. Lunch would be at the Ken River Lodge Restaurant.

This afternoon includes a game drive in a 4x4 open jeep within the Panna Tiger Reserve. The park's diverse ecosystems, including dense forests and rocky plateaus, create an ideal habitat for various wildlife species, including tigers, leopards, and an array of birdlife. Return to Khajuraho in time for dinner.



*Please note: You will need your passport to gain entry to the national park.*

### Destination Information

**Panna National Park** – Known for its rich biodiversity, featuring diverse flora and fauna. The park is famous for its tiger population and is part of the Project Tiger initiative, focusing on the conservation of this majestic species. Besides tigers, Panna National Park is home to leopards, sloth bears, sambar deer, and numerous bird species. The park's landscape comprises lush forests, open grasslands, and the picturesque Ken River, making it an excellent destination for nature enthusiasts and wildlife photographers. Visitors can enjoy jeep safaris and boat rides to explore the park's natural beauty and witness its wildlife in their natural habitat.

**Day 10: Khajuraho**

Meals: B, L, D

This morning you will explore the architectural marvels of Khajuraho. Start by visiting the renowned Eastern and Western group of temples. These exquisite temples, adorned with intricate carvings and sculptures, offer a glimpse into the artistry and spirituality of the Chandela dynasty. Each temple tells a story through its craftsmanship, making it a captivating cultural experience.



Afterwards, drive 3.5 hours to Jhansi Railway Station for a 2 hour 40 minute train journey to Agra.

En route, make a stop in Orchha, a town steeped in history and dotted with impressive palaces and temples. Orchha's medieval charm and riverside setting provide a serene backdrop for your visit. Lunch will be at a local restaurant in Orchha.

### Destination Information

**Western Group of Temples** - The Khajuraho temples were built by the Chandella rulers between AD 900 and 1300 and are scattered over 23km sq. Originally a group of 85, they are the largest group of Hindu and Jain temples in the world, although only about 25 of them remain today. Tour the Western Groups of temples, the most important is the Kandariya Mahadevo Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva.

**Eastern Group of Temples** - The Eastern group represent some of the finest Jain temples including Parsvanatha which is known for its carvings of celestial beauties (sura-sundaris), along with the Adinath and Ghantai temples. We also see the Hindu temples including the Vamana Temple, dedicated to Lord Vamana, the dwarf incarnation of Lord Vishnu, as well as the Javari Temple.

**Orchha** - A medieval city famous for its palaces and temples built by the Bundela rulers in the 16th century. Jehangir Mahal, a tiered palace, is crowned by graceful cenotaphs, and commands a spectacular view of soaring temple spires and surrounding cenotaphs.



**Day 11: Taj Mahal**

Meals: B, L, D

Your day in Agra promises to be a cultural and historical immersion, starting with a visit to the legendary Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal's architectural perfection and the love story behind its creation make it a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most recognized symbols of India.

Afterwards, continue with a visit to the Agra Fort, another UNESCO World Heritage site. This historic fortress, made of red sandstone, offers insights into the Mughal era's opulence and power.

Later, experience a marble inlay workshop where skilled artisans demonstrate the intricate craft of inlaying precious and semi-precious stones into marble to create exquisite designs.

**Destination Information**

**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.

**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.

**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 12: Return to Delhi**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast drive 4 hours back to Delhi where you have the rest of the day at leisure, before your farewell dinner.



**Days 13-14: Depart Delhi**

Meals: B

---

After breakfast transfer to Delhi airport for your flight home, arriving the following day.



## WILDLIFE OF 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.

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:

---

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance. We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original.

### 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 the 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 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!

### 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 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 guide.

### ACCOMMODATION:

---

All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, TV, 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.

### PORTERAGE:

---

Please be aware that portering is not included on our tours in India. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

### 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. 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.

## 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.

## 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. 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.

## 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 Sri Lanka 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 Sri Lanka 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.

**Safari's:** Specialized vehicles designed for use in wildlife safaris and are adapted to provide a safe and comfortable experience for tourists and wildlife enthusiasts while allowing for close-up views of animals in their natural habitats.

**Open-Air Safari Jeeps:** These are typically open-roofed, four-wheel-drive vehicles with raised seats in the back for better visibility. Open-air jeeps provide an unobstructed view of wildlife. Please always keep your arms/hands inside the vehicles.

**Boats:** In areas with water-based wildlife, such as wetlands and river deltas, boats are used for safaris. These can be small, open boats that you are required to climb in and out of.

### **PARK INFORMATION:**

---

#### **Kanha:**

**Terrain:** Kanha is characterized by lush sal and bamboo forests, sprawling meadows, and the meandering Banjar River. Its diverse topography includes plateaus, valleys, and dense woodlands. The park's serene and expansive landscapes make it an idyllic setting for wildlife enthusiasts and photographers.

**Wildlife:** Kanha is renowned for its thriving populations of Bengal tigers, along with leopards, deer species, and diverse birdlife. It is also known for the elusive barasingha, or hard-ground swamp deer, which is found here and nowhere else in the world.

**Scenic Beauty:** The park's picturesque vistas, particularly during the monsoon when the landscape turns a vibrant green, are a distinguishing feature. Kanha's natural beauty and tranquillity offer a unique and serene wildlife experience.

#### **Bandhavgarh National Park:**

**Terrain:** Bandhavgarh boasts rugged terrain, with rocky hills, dense forests, and steep cliffs. Its undulating landscapes and ancient fort ruins create a dramatic backdrop for safaris.

**Wildlife:** Bandhavgarh is famous for having one of the highest densities of Bengal tigers in India. The park is also home to a variety of wildlife, including leopards, sloth bears, and various deer species. The presence of the ancient Bandhavgarh Fort adds a historical and mystical element to the park's character.

**Intimacy:** Bandhavgarh's smaller size compared to Kanha allows for a more intimate safari experience. The rugged terrain can lead to exciting wildlife sightings in unexpected places.

#### **Panna National Park:**

**Terrain:** Panna is distinguished by its unique mix of dense forests, lush riverbanks, and rocky plateaus. The Ken River flows through the park, creating a picturesque and diverse landscape.

**Wildlife:** While tigers are present in Panna, the park is known for its successful reintroduction of the species after a period of local extinction. Panna is also home to leopards, wolves, and various species of deer, as well as a rich variety of birdlife.

**River Safaris:** Panna offers the unique opportunity to explore its wilderness by boat, providing a different perspective and a chance to see wildlife congregating along the riverbanks.

### **DO'S AND DONT'S:**

- Entry is allowed only with valid Id Proofs – Please carry your passport while visiting the National Parks
- Do not get down from the vehicle unless advised by the naturalist.
- Carrying alcohol and entering the park in an intoxicated condition is prohibited.
- Use of plastic is prohibited inside the protected area.
- Creating noises using transistors, tape recorders or blowing horn is prohibited.
- Lifting of any forest produce plants or animal article inside the protected area is prohibited.
- Allow the animals to have the right of the way. Maintain safe distance from animals.
- Teasing, chasing or feeding animals is strictly prohibited.
- Misconduct, bad behaviour and shouting is prohibited inside the protected area.
- Except for camera, use of mobile phones is strictly prohibited.
- Maintain silence and discipline during excursions.
- It is advised to wear clothes with colours that match the natural surroundings like browns or greens, khaki among other dull colours.
- Follow the instruction given by park officials.
- Report incidences of breaking of rules, forest fires and any damage to habitat or wildlife, if any, to the park officials.
- Smoking and lighting any kind of fire is strictly prohibited
- Driving after sunset is strictly prohibited inside the reserve
- Cooking is not allowed inside the park

### **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 pants 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 daypack, which you can wear to protect your feet from any rough or hot surfaces.

### 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.

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

---

Public Holidays please note that celebrations can last a couple of days and during these times some businesses will be closed, and coach, air and train travel may be affected. Tourist attractions will be open but may be crowded. India Republic Day is on 26th January, the Holi Festival on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 & 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (The Hindu 'Festival of Colours' can include locals smearing coloured powder on one another. Every effort will be made to minimise the effect on passengers whilst touring). Diwali Festival (festival of light) is on October 20<sup>th</sup> 2025 & November 8<sup>th</sup> 2026.

### 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](http://www.travelvax.com.au)

### BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

---

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with [www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.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: November 2024