



## Indian Country Guide

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### Passport and Tourist Visa Conditions

Australian passports holders travelling to India as a tourist require a visa. Travellers may receive an e-Tourist Visa (eTV) for up to 60 days stay in India provided they have applied for an eTV between 4 and 120 days prior to their departure for India and are entering India via one of the 25 airports or 5 seaports where an eTV can be issued. To apply for an eTV, travellers must complete the application form, pay the US\$80 fee and upload a photograph and a copy of their passport data page at [www.indianvisaonline.gov.in](http://www.indianvisaonline.gov.in).

Travellers who are not eligible to apply for an eTV must apply for a visa prior to departure from the Visa Application Centres (listed below). Applicants passports should have at least six months validity and two blank pages. An Airport Tax of 500 Rs applies when departing India, which (if not included in the ticket price) is payable at the airport bank. Additional conditions may apply to minors. All travellers should go to the website above to read the full list of eligibility requirements to ensure their specific circumstances make them eligible to receive an eTV and for further information on the application process.

### Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

*Exercise a high degree of caution in India because of the high threat of terrorist activity, civil unrest and crime, and the high rate of vehicle accidents. Pay close attention to your personal security at all times and monitor the media for information about possible new safety or security risks. Reconsider your need to travel, or avoid all travel to some regions of India because of safety and security issues. See [Safety and security](#).*

*We continue to receive reports that terrorists are planning attacks in India, including in regions frequented by Westerners. We assess that attacks could occur anywhere at any time with little or no warning, including in locations frequented by Australians, such as religious sites, markets and festivals. See [Safety and security](#). Annual monsoon rains from June to October can cause extensive flooding and landslides. See [Natural disasters](#). Maintain a high level of vigilance in public places. Take local security arrangements into consideration when deciding where to visit.*

*Female travellers face particular threats to their safety in India. If you're female, avoid travelling alone. Be cautious even if you are travelling with others. See [Safety and security](#). Violent protests and demonstrations occur sporadically throughout India. Avoid large crowds. See [Safety and security](#). Driving in India is unpredictable and the number of road traffic deaths is high. See [Local travel](#).*

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in India at [www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au).

### Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to India. Frequent or long stay travellers should consider vaccination against hepatitis B. Vaccination against rabies (particularly if working with animals), typhoid (particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene) and meningitis should be considered by travellers to India. Cholera is reported in India but vaccination is generally not recommended. Care with food and beverage selection is far more important. Those spending at least 4 weeks in rural areas of the transmission zone may require vaccination against Japanese Encephalitis. There is a medium risk of malaria and sporadic/limited transmission of the zika virus in India, dengue fever also occurs, thus insect avoidance measures and anti malarial medication may be necessary depending on your itinerary, pregnant women should consider postponing travel to India.

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations including but not limited to polio and a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to India should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas, the zika virus and other issues please visit [www.smarttraveller.gov.au/tips](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/tips).

### Indian Representatives in Australia

VFS Global, Indian Visa Application Centres

Indian Visa Application Centres are located in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. To find the address and opening times of your closest centre please see the below website.

Tel: (03) 8593 9124  
Web: [www.vfsglobal.com/india/australia](http://www.vfsglobal.com/india/australia)

VFS Global is a private company that has been contracted by the High Commission of India to manage consular issues on their behalf.

Thus all visa related enquiries should be directed to VFS Global and not the Indian High Commission or other missions located around Australia.



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### Time Differences between India and Australia

Indian Time is Greenwich Mean Time +5½ hours. Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone is called India Standard Time (IST).

India, 12 noon, December = Perth 2:30pm, Darwin 4pm, Brisbane 4:30pm, Adelaide 5pm, Melbourne, Hobart, Sydney, 5:30pm.  
India, 12 noon, June = Perth 2:30pm, Darwin, Adelaide 4pm, Melbourne, Hobart, Sydney, Brisbane 4:30pm.

### Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for India: +91

To Dial Australia Call:  
00 61 <City> <Number>

Australian Reverse Charges Direct:  
000 61 17

Visa Global Assistance:  
000 117 wait for dial tone, then 866 765 9644

MasterCard:  
000 800 100 1087

Travelex Card Services:  
Call the US on +1 954 838 8294

American Express Travellers Cheques:  
1800 180 1245 or +91 124 4190540

Emergency Services:  
Ambulance 102  
Fire 101  
Police 100

The emergency numbers may not apply outside urban centres and may not always have English speaking staff. In this case you should have a Hindi speaker call on your behalf or contact an Australian mission.

### Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry copies of all important documents separately to their originals and leave a third copy in Australia. This includes copies of travellers cheques, passports, credit cards and insurance documents.

#### Passports

Name In Passport: \_\_\_\_\_ Passport #: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Travel Insurance

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Hindi Words and Phrases

Yes	ha	No	nahi
Thank you	dhanyavaad	Please	kripyaa
Hello	namaste	Goodbye	alavidha
Where is..?	kahan hai..?	Airport	havaaiaddaa
Train station	railway station	Bus station	busaddaa
Police station	police station	Hospital	aspataala
Chemist	davaakhaanaa	Cheers!	cheers
Coffee	coffee	Tea	chaaya
Juice	rus	Water	paani
Beer	beer	Wine	wine

Do you speak English?  
Where is the bathroom?  
Please bring the bill  
Do you accept credit cards?  
How much does this cost?

kyaa aap angrejii?  
aapkaa snanghar kahan hai?  
kRiPyaa rasid laaiye  
kya aap credit card svikaara karte hai?  
isakii kyaa kimat hai?

### Australian Representation in India

Australian High Commission, India

Australian Compound  
No. 1/50 G Shantipath, Chanakyapuri  
NEW DELHI 110 021

Tel: (+91) 11 4139 9900  
Fax: (+91) 11 2687 2228  
Web: [india.embassy.gov.au](http://india.embassy.gov.au)

Australian Consulate, Mumbai

L10, A Wing Crescenzo Building  
G Block, Plot C 38-39  
Bandra Kurla Complex  
MUMBAI 400 051

Tel: (+91) 22 6757 4900  
Web: [mumbai.consulate.gov.au](http://mumbai.consulate.gov.au)

Australia also has a Consulate General in Chennai, which is contactable on (+91) 44 4592 1300 or [chennai.consulate.gov.au](http://chennai.consulate.gov.au). Alternatively, Australians may obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Australia on (+61) 2 6261 3305. Australians in India are encouraged to register their presence and contact details online with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at [ora0.dfat.gov.au](http://ora0.dfat.gov.au).



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### Duty Free Allowances for India and Australia

Allowances for tourists when entering India by air:  
 Alcohol: Up to 2 L of alcoholic liquors or wines.  
 Tobacco: 100 cigarettes or 25 cigars or 125 g of tobacco.  
 Other Goods: Up to the value of 8,000 Rupees.

Allowances when entering Australia:  
 Alcohol: Up to 2.25 L.  
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.  
 Other Goods: Up to a value of \$900 (\$450 if under 18 years).

The above allowances when entering India do not apply to tourists of Indian or Pakistani origin. Foreigners are not permitted to cross Indian borders carrying any amount of Indian currency. Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting India and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For further information on Indian customs please visit [www.cbec.gov.in](http://www.cbec.gov.in), or for further information on Australian customs please visit [www.border.gov.au](http://www.border.gov.au).

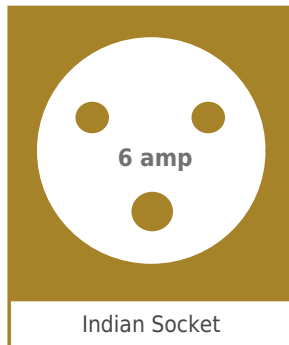
### Electrical Adaptors and Voltage

Electrical Socket: Indian (type D).

Supply: 220-240 V, 50 Hz (same as Australia).

Various other sockets may also be found throughout India including the similar South African socket and the European socket.

A voltage converter will generally not be required to use appliances designed for Australia.

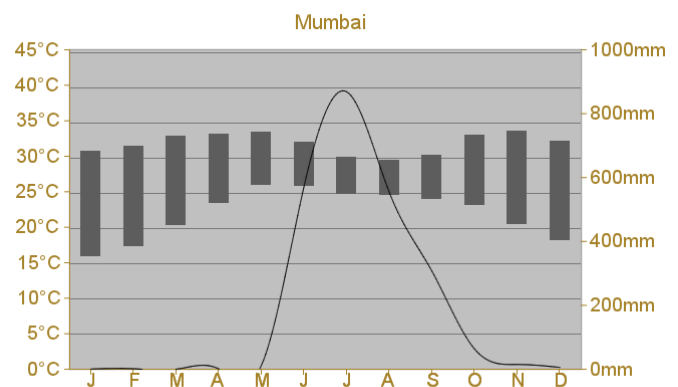
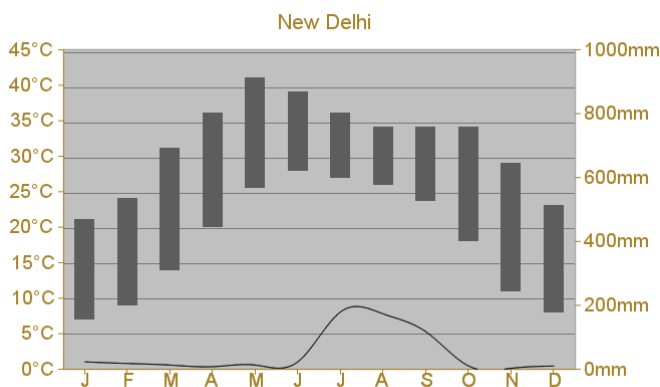


### Indian Holidays 2018

26 Jan: Republic Day*	22 Aug: Idul Zuha (Bakrid)*
14 Feb: Maha Shivaratri	03 Sep: Janamashtami
02 Mar: Holi	21 Sep: Muharram
25 Mar: Ram Navami	02 Oct: Gandhi's Birthday*
29 Mar: Mahavir Jayanti	19 Oct: Dussehra
30 Mar: Good Friday	07 Nov: Diwali (Deepavali)
30 Apr: Buddha Purnima	21 Nov: Birth of Muhammad
16 Jun: Idu'l Fitr	23 Nov: Nanak's Birthday
15 Aug: Independence Day*	25 Dec: Christmas Day

The above holidays are those scheduled for Indian Government Offices. Those marked with an \* are the only public holidays in India. India has many regional holidays and religious festivals.

### Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in India



For local forecasts please go to the Indian Meteorological Department at [www.imd.gov.in](http://www.imd.gov.in).

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### Exchange Rate with India

#### Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 52.46 Indian Rupees  
 100 Indian Rupees (INR) = 1.91 Australian Dollars

#### With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 50.45 Indian Rupees  
 100 Indian Rupees (INR) = 1.98 Australian Dollars

All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging these currencies. These currency rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

### Purchasing Power Parity

The following is a purchasing-power comparison of the Indian Rupee and the Australian Dollar, using the Big Mac as a common good. While it does not present a faultless comparison, it is a useful indicator of the purchasing power of each currency.

Big Mac Australia: \$5.95 (AUD) = 312 Indian Rupees  
 Maharaja Mac India: 180.00 Rs (INR) = 3.43 Australian Dollars

*A Big/Maharaja Mac in India is therefore 42% less expensive than in Australia.*

This comparison is based on 2018 prices using current exchange rates. Prices may not include variations by locality or local taxes.

### Currency Cheat Sheet

This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" rate of exchange listed above.

10 Rs = \$0.20 AUD	100 Rs = \$1.98 AUD	1,000 Rs = \$19.82 AUD
20 Rs = \$0.40 AUD	200 Rs = \$3.96 AUD	2,000 Rs = \$39.65 AUD
30 Rs = \$0.59 AUD	300 Rs = \$5.95 AUD	3,000 Rs = \$59.47 AUD
40 Rs = \$0.79 AUD	400 Rs = \$7.93 AUD	4,000 Rs = \$79.29 AUD
50 Rs = \$0.99 AUD	500 Rs = \$9.91 AUD	5,000 Rs = \$99.12 AUD
60 Rs = \$1.19 AUD	600 Rs = \$11.89 AUD	6,000 Rs = \$118.94 AUD
70 Rs = \$1.39 AUD	700 Rs = \$13.88 AUD	7,000 Rs = \$138.76 AUD
80 Rs = \$1.59 AUD	800 Rs = \$15.86 AUD	8,000 Rs = \$158.59 AUD
90 Rs = \$1.78 AUD	900 Rs = \$17.84 AUD	9,000 Rs = \$178.41 AUD
		10,000 Rs = \$198.23 AUD

### Banknotes of India

The legal currency of India is the rupee (plural rupees), which is usually abbreviated using the new currency symbol ₹ or the letters "Rs" or "Rp". The subunit of the rupee is the paise (plural paise), of which there are 100 in every rupee. The following units of currency are the most common however other units are also in circulation. Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images prior to travelling.

In November 2016 the Indian government announced that all 500 and 1,000 rupee notes were being withdrawn from circulation. These notes are no longer legal tender and should not be accepted by travelers. New 500 and 2,000 rupee notes are being introduced but they are not yet widely available.





# Indian Country Guide

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Full Name: Bharatiya Ganarajya (Republic of India).

Size: 3,287,590 sq km (twice the size of QLD).

Population: 1.23 Billion (17% of the world's population).

Language: Hindi, English, and 21 other official languages.

Religion: Hindu 81%, Muslim 13%, Christian 2.3%, Sikh 1.9%.

Ethnicity: Indo Aryan 72%, Dravidian 25%.

GDP Per Capita: US\$4,000 (Australia US\$43,000).

Significant Dates:

2500 BC - The Indus valley civilisation reaches its pinnacle.

320-550 AD - The Gupta Empire. Hinduism becomes dominant.

1526 - The Mughal Empire is founded, uniting much of the sub-continent for the first time and spreading Islam.

1600's - European powers establish trade posts in coastal India.

1858 - The British overthrow the Mughals and rule India.

1947 - India gains independence, is partitioned into India and Pakistan. Widespread communal bloodshed ensues.

1948 - Mahatma Gandhi is assassinated by Hindu extremists.

