

**TRAVEL INFORMATION FOR INDIA****PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION**

“e-tourist Visa on Arrival” is available for passport holders of the following countries:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon Union Republic, Canada, Cape Verde, Cayman Island, Chile, China, China- SAR Hongkong, China- SAR Macau, Colombia, Comoros, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, East Timor, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Laos, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger Republic, Niue Island, Norway, Oman, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Island, Tuvalu, UAE, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vatican City-Holy See, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe

e-Visa is valid for entry through 26 designated Airports (i.e. Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bagdogra, Bengaluru, Calicut, Chennai, Chandigarh, Cochin, Coimbatore, Delhi, Gaya, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Madurai, Mangalore, Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune, Tiruchirapalli, Trivandrum, Varanasi & Vishakhapatnam) and 5 designated seaports (i.e. Chennai, Cochin, Goa, Mangalore & Mumbai). However, the foreigner can take exit from any of the authorized Immigration Check Posts (ICPs) in India.

Applicants of eligible countries may apply online a minimum 4 days in advance of the date of arrival with a window of 120 days. For example, if you are applying on 1st Sept then applicant can select arrival date from 5th Sept to 02nd Jan.

The applicant should carry a printed copy of Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) along with him/her at the time of travel. Please confirm that your ETA status is shown as 'GRANTED' on this website prior to commencement of your journey. Applicants can track the status of their application online by clicking Visa Status. For the rest of the

world, a valid visa must be obtained before arriving into the country.

Please visit the following site for more information and online applications:

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

All travelers to India must be in possession of a valid signed passport that remains valid for at least six (06) months beyond completion of their trip. Additionally if you are visiting a restricted area – Border Areas of North-East region, Ladakh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands etc., the visa must include permission to visit these places. Please check with your Travel Agent if your trip includes visits to restricted areas.

It is imperative that every traveler arrives with the proper documentation. While Peirce & Leslie will advise you of our current information regarding passports and visas, please be aware that is the traveler's responsibility to obtain all correct documentation prior to arrival in India.

### **HEALTH INFORMATION**

Please discuss health requirements for your travel itinerary with a qualified health professional at least six weeks prior to departure. In addition, a good source of health information is the U.S Centers for Disease Control (The CDC) in Atlanta, which operates a 24-hour recorded international travelers' information line. Information is also available from your local public health department.

### **YELLOW FEVER**

If you are arriving from a country where yellow fever is endemic (Africa except South Africa and most parts of South America) you are required to have yellow fever vaccination which must be taken at least ten days before your arrival in the country. If your trip requires you take the vaccination, you must ask your doctor to provide you with an "International Certificate of Vaccination" which should be carried with you at all times. If proof of vaccination is required and you do not have it, entry into the country will be denied.

### **MALARIA**

It is recommended that you take anti malarial medication especially if visiting India during the months of July to September in Northern India, and November and December in Southern India. However, please consult the CDC or your own physician regarding preferred drugs and dosage.

In addition to anti-malarial medication, personal protection measures such as wearing long sleeves and long pants should be taken to avoid mosquito bites, especially between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active. These measures include using an insect repellent containing 20% to 35% of the active ingredient "DEET".

It is also recommended that all international travelers ensure that their Tetanus, Hepatitis A and Polio vaccines are up-to-date.

Since health requirements can change at very short notice, it is important that you check with a qualified health professional for the most current information concerning your travel itinerary and personal health history.

It is also suggested that you carry a traveler's medical kit appropriate to your destination, length of trip and general health. Your physician can advise you on specific items to include (such as remedies for minor stomach ailments, dehydration and motion sickness). You should include an adequate supply of any prescription medication you may require while traveling.

If you do have any known food restrictions, allergies or medical conditions or physical disabilities, which need special care, you should ensure that your travel agent and Peirce & Leslie are made aware of these. A copy of your health insurance should be available with your travel agent.

### **ARRIVAL AND CUSTOMS INFORMATION**

Please be advised that regulation at most international points of arrival usually do not permit passengers to be met inside secured passenger areas (such as the immigration and customs areas). The Peirce & Leslie representative will meet you on arrival immediately after you have passed through the passenger areas. If we are able to meet you in the secure area, we will mention it on the itinerary.

### **BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE ON DOMESTIC FLIGHTS**

Security in Indian airports is very stringent and all hand baggage is x-rayed and sometimes physically searched prior to boarding a flight. Domestic airlines do not permit any sharp implements and inflammable items to be carried in cabin baggage. Therefore, please ensure that you pack all sharp objects such as scissors, razors etc. in your checked-in baggage. In addition, ensure that you pack your portable mobile charger, iPad/Kindle chargers, laptop charger, dry cell batteries for cameras and other portable electronic devices, power banks and e-cigarettes in your cabin baggage. The carriage of **Samsung Galaxy Note 7** is **banned** in both checked-in and cabin baggage.

There are several different sets of baggage allowance regulations in effect for international and domestic flights. Baggage allowance varies depending on type of aircraft and class service. Currently the baggage allowance on domestic Indian flights is 15 kgs (kilograms) only, for economy class travel. Only one piece of hand luggage is permitted per passenger and the allowance varies between 5 kgs to 7 kgs depending on the airline and the sector.

**PLEASE NOTE: THE BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE IS INCLUDED IN THE TICKET PRINT OUT WE EMAIL TO YOU. PLEASE READ THE SAME CAREFULLY TO CONFIRM THE EXACT BAGGAGE REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO YOUR SPECIFIC ITINERARY. ANY BAGGAGE IN EXCESS OF AIRLINE LIMITATIONS MAY BE SUBJECT TO EXCESS BAGGAGE CHARGES. THESE CHARGES ARE THE SOLE REPSONSIBILITY OF THE**

**TRAVELER. PEIRCE & LESLIE WILL NOT BE HELD REPOSNSIBLE OR PAY FOR THE SAME ON YOUR BEHALF.**

Every piece of checked-in baggage should be locked and contain identification both inside and well as outside. In addition, do not pack valuable items such as cameras and jewelry in checked-in baggage. While every precaution will be taken with your baggage, Peirce & Leslie cannot be held responsible for any damaged, lost or stolen baggage or personal property and we strongly recommend the purchase of adequate baggage insurance by each traveler.

### **DEPARTURE TAX INFORMATION**

Indian departure taxes are now always included in the purchase price of international airline tickets. In the event the departure tax has not been included in the purchase price of your ticket, it must be paid at the airport prior to departure in local currency.

### **WEATHER**

Although India has primarily a tropical climate, the weather varies widely all over the sub continent. There are roughly eight climatic zones, with the monsoons coming to different parts of the country at different times.

#### *NORTH AND CENTRAL INDIA*

Generally the plains of North India have four distinct seasons

November to March	Winter with daily highs of 20 degrees Celsius and evening lows of 5 degrees Celsius
April to July	Summer when it is hot and dry with daily highs of up to 40 degrees and evening lows of 30 degrees Celsius in the evening
July to September	The Monsoon season which brings relief from the heat but also brings high humidity
October	Autumn when the weather is pleasant with daily highs of 25 degrees and evening lows of 18 degrees Celsius

Snow is usually found from January through to March, only in the foothills of the Himalayas and higher reaches.

#### *SOUTH AND WESTERN INDIA*

Southern and Western India does not have a “cool season”. The summer is hot and humid with the rains starting in June and continuing through September. Southern India also has winter rains from November onwards, although they are not as heavy as the monsoon rains. From October onwards, the weather becomes pleasant with highs around 30 degrees Celsius and lows of around 25 degrees with minimal humidity.

### **CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES**

While traveling in India it is best to dress in layers, as even in winter the sun tends to be very hot.

During the winter months in North India, especially from the end of November onwards, you will require sweaters, sweatshirts and a heavy jacket. While sightseeing, dressing in layers is helpful since the day gets warmer as the sun rises. It is advisable to also carry cotton clothing and other lightweight material of natural “breathable” fabric. Comfortable walking shoes are essential.

Skirts, long shorts, dresses, and slacks are acceptable in India for women. When visiting temples/mosques it is advisable to wear either long skirts or slacks and have shoulders covered.

Although dress codes at restaurants are relaxed and formal attire is not absolutely necessary, you may want to pack one formal set of clothing for the trip.

While visiting monuments you might have to take off your shoes; we recommend you keep an extra pair of socks in your handbag for the purpose. We provide you with a pair in your welcome kit on arrival.

Sunglasses, a sun hat, and sunblock are recommended.

If you wear prescription glasses or contact lenses, we recommend that you bring an extra pair of glasses as well as a copy of the prescription.

You should carry along an adequate supply of any prescription medication you may require while traveling. Prescription medicines should always be carried in your hand luggage, in the original, labeled containers.

### **GUIDELINES FOR GAME SAFARIS**

Please ensure that you carry ID proof as it is checked at the park entrance by the Forest Department.

Avoid brightly colored clothing as the wildlife may get distracted. It is better to opt for comfortable clothing with soothing colors - grey, forest green, brown, which easily mingles with the jungle.

Carry your water bottles and apply suntan lotion / mosquito repellent. It is advised you bring along a cap/hat, sun glasses etc. so that you are protected from the heat. Remember to wear comfortable shoes.

You can take video and still cameras into the National Parks. Video Cameras require a fee to be paid at the entrance. Your accompanying guide will do the needful on your behalf.

*Morning Safari Timings: October, February & March*

6:30 am till 10:00 am

You are requested to be present in the lobby at 6:20 am

November to January

7:00 am till 10:30 am

You are requested to be present in the lobby at 6:50 am

April to June

6:00 am till 9:30 am

You are requested to be present in the lobby at 5:50 am

*Afternoon Safari Timings:* October, February & March

2:30 pm till 6:00 pm

You are requested to be present in the lobby at 2:20 pm

November to January

2:00 pm till 5:30 pm

You are requested to be present in the lobby at 1:50 pm

1<sup>st</sup> April to 16<sup>th</sup> May

3:00 pm till 6:30 pm

You are requested to be present in the lobby at 2:50 pm

17<sup>th</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> June

3:30 pm till 7:00 pm.

You are requested to be present in the lobby at 3:20 pm

- \*The exact timings will be mentioned on your itinerary

### **LAUNDRY**

Laundry service is available at most hotels used by Peirce & Leslie. Please do remember to check the individual laundry return policy and pricing schedule. Please be sure to only request laundry service when you are in one location for a sufficient length of time to ensure that your laundry is returned to you before you depart.

### **ELECTRICITY**

Electrical current in India is 220 volts. If you are traveling with electrical appliances it is worth bringing along an international converter kit complete with a set of adapter plugs. These are available at most electrical and hardware stores.

It is suggested that you take battery-operated appliances wherever possible, along with a supply of extra batteries.

### **EMAIL AND FAXES**

Most of the hotels used by Peirce & Leslie will have high speed broadband facilities as well as local and international dialing facilities available from the phone in your room. Most chain hotels also have in-house facilities for sending fax and emails. One can also find small ISD/STD pay phone booths in the busy market areas of virtually every city in India. Cyber cafes have also mushroomed in all major city market places, as well as in many smaller towns.

Local pre-paid mobile phones and SIM cards are available at most airports. Alternatively, the concierge at your hotel or your guide can arrange one for you. You would need a copy of your passport and visa, and one passport photograph if you would like a local phone.

### **FOOD AND DRINK**

Most hotels used by Peirce & Leslie serve a variety of international cuisine, with some of them having an excellent reputation for fine dining. When traveling in some of the smaller cities, choices maybe restricted, and sometimes it is advisable to stay with local cuisine rather than requesting European menus, though these can be arranged. Food in all hotels is safe and hygienically stored and cooked, however, it is suggested that in the smaller towns and cities, you avoid raw pre peeled fruit/salads/vegetables and yogurt.

**Tap water in India is not safe to drink and we strongly recommend that you always drink bottled water.** Bottled water is freely available in all hotels and always kept in a cooler in the transport arranged by Peirce & Leslie. When buying bottled water, always ensure that the bottle is sealed when you receive it. Additionally, you will find a wide range of soft drinks, beer and coffee and tea, which are all safe to drink.

A word of caution: Imported alcoholic beverages are expensive in comparison to the Indian alcoholic beverages.

While traveling in India at any time of the year, it is important to keep yourself well hydrated.

### **CURRENCY**

#### *FOREIGN EXCHANGE*

A person coming into India from abroad can bring foreign exchange without any limit, provided however, if foreign currency notes, or travelers cheques exceed US\$ 10,000/- or its equivalent and/or the value of foreign currency notes exceeds US\$ 5,000/- or its equivalent, it should be declared to the Customs Authorities at the Airport in the Currency Declaration Form (CDF), on arrival in India.

#### *INDIAN RUPEES*

A person coming in to India can bring up to Rs. 5,000 from any country other than Nepal or Bhutan, and any amount in denomination not exceeding Rs.100 from Nepal or Bhutan.

The Indian currency is called the “Rupee” and the coins are known as “paisa”. 100 paisa makes 1 Rupee

Coins are issued in denominations of 50 paisa, and one, two and five and 10 Rupees

Paper notes are issued in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 (new currency) and 2,000 Rupees

Your currency exchange receipts must be saved as you may be asked to produce them upon your departure from India, or if you need to reconvert rupees into foreign currency upon departure. We suggest that money is only exchanged at authorized dealers, banks or hotel desks. Generally all cities, large and small, have facilities to change money. Please be aware that most game parks and reserves don't have currency exchange facilities.

Major credit cards and traveler's checks are generally accepted at all hotels and stores. In addition, all major cities and most small towns have ATM machines.

### **SHOPPING**

India is a shopper's delight, and the range of items is astonishing.

**PLEASE NOTE: PEIRCE & LESLIE ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY PURCHASES MADE BY CLIENTS WHILE TRAVELING. ADDITIONALLY PEIRCE & LESLIE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR NON-RECEIPT OF SHIPPED ITEMS OR THE AMOUNT CHARGED FOR THIS SERVICE.**

1. Do not purchase antiques, carpets or jewelry unless you are absolutely sure of what you are buying. Price is not always an indication of value and authenticity. **It is illegal to carry any antiques over 100 years old out of the country.**
2. Bargaining is very much part of the Indian shopping experience especially when shopping in local markets. You should be aware that unless it is a government emporium where prices are fixed, you would always be quoted prices much higher than the value of the goods.
3. Always take time to read the charge slips for credit card purchases before you sign them. You should know that for any purchase returned against a credit card payment, refunds could take up to six months to process.
4. For purchases, which are, being hand carried all sales receipts must be retained with you to produce for customs on arrival at your destination.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

We recommend that you bring all photographic equipment with you including an ample supply of film, memory sticks and batteries. International brands of film are widely available, though the quality cannot be guaranteed.

When photographing people, always ask permission and offer a small fee for taking their picture. Your tour guide or escort will advise you. The exception is when taking a general picture of crowds and scenes. Photography at airports is strictly forbidden.

**VALUABLES, SAFETY AND TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Exercise the same safety precautions throughout your travels as you would at home. Avoid stepping out of the hotel premises at night and keep all valuables in the hotel locker as far as possible. It is important to keep photocopies of your passport and other travel documents handy.

**GRATUITIES**

Tipping in India is expected. The amount is determined by your satisfaction of the services provided. Should you wish to leave a tip, the document kit given to you on arrival has a guideline of the amount mentioned on the welcome letter.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

There is only one time zone in India which is typically GMT + 5.30 hours. India does not follow Daylight Saving Time.

Prior to departure for India, you will be given a complete list of contact numbers including telephone, fax and email addresses to assist you in the event you need to contact us while traveling. The information will also include after office contact numbers of all Peirce & Leslie personnel. Additionally, we can be reached via the Peirce & Leslie office in New Delhi.

**LANGUAGE**

English is widely understood and sometimes spoken, if not correctly, definitely passably. The most effective way to communicate in case of a language barrier is through your guide or escort.

**A TROUBLE FREE HOLIDAY**

Your welcome package that will be given to you upon arrival will have the direct contact, and after hours contact numbers of the Peirce & Leslie personnel. We encourage you to call if; at any point during the tour you are dissatisfied with any of the arrangements, no matter how small the issue may be. In most cases, the matter can be put right very quickly if we or our local representative is made aware of it immediately, ensuring you have a trouble free holiday.

**Safe Travels**