



A Travel Guide to **INDIA**

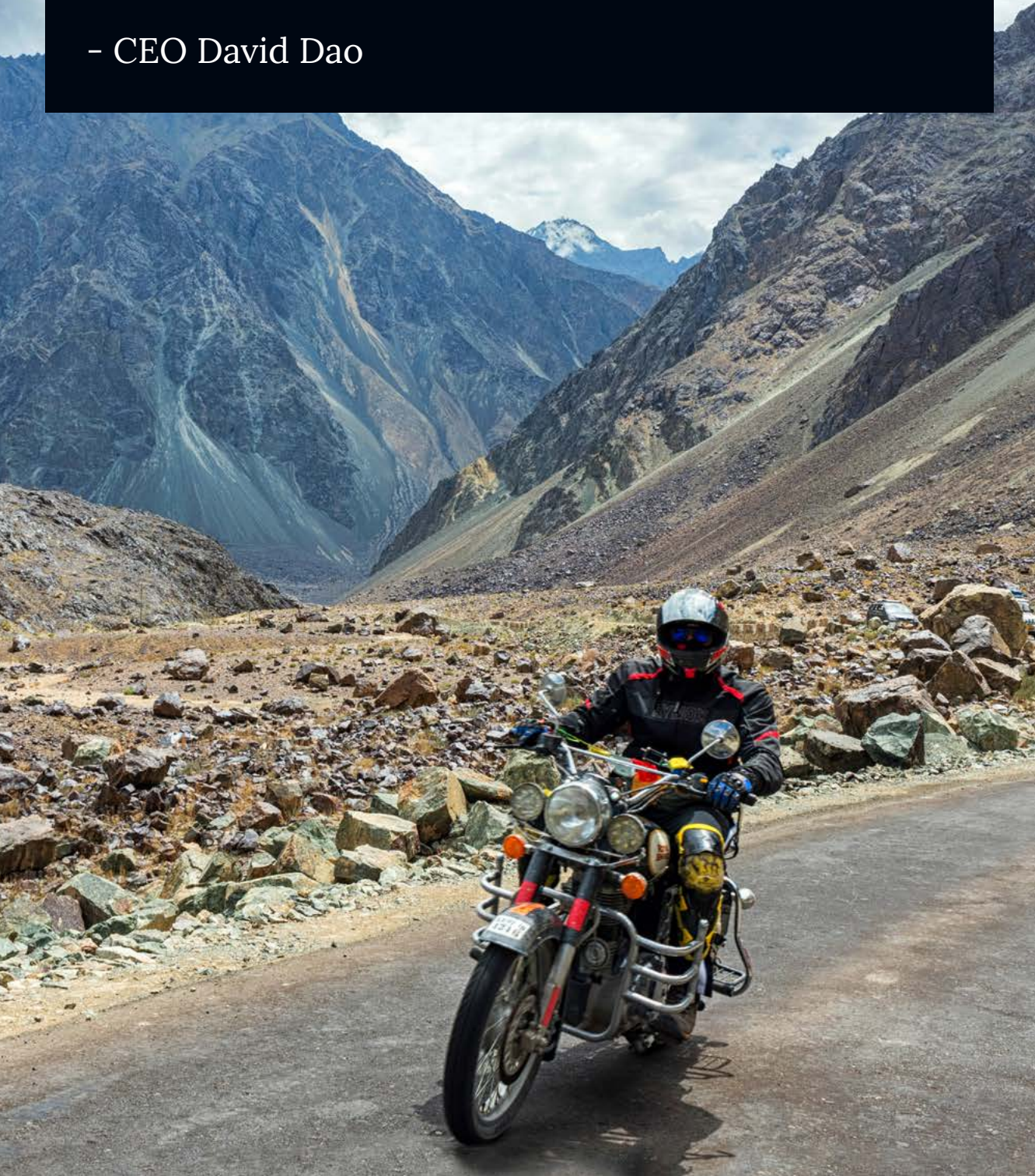


THE ESSENTIAL THINGS

PLACES CUISINES CULTURE HACKS and MORE!

It's a blessing for us to take people to places and make them smile every day.

- CEO David Dao



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**EXPLORE
ENJOY
REPEAT**



**UNBEATABLE
PRICES**



**7-DAY
MONEY BACK**



**DEPARTURE
GUARANTEE**

Greetings from

Asia Vacation Group

Inspired by the passion of travelling and exploring the extraordinary, Asia Vacation Group travel agency was born in 2015 with the vision of delivering the ultimate travel experience to group and individuals around the world.

Guests Lover

Our dedicated services are with you all the way. Just sit back and relax.

Local Leaders

With more than 60 itineraries to 7 countries in Asia, we will take you the most beautiful corners of the land.

Responsible Travel

We implement only good ethic practices to protect the environment and historical wonders for mankind.

The accommodation was exemplary in the four hotels we stayed in and every tour was terrific with the highlight for me being the Saigon River dinner cruise. The food everywhere was fantastic. Thank you for arranging such a great holiday.

- Norm Avent
Asia Vacation Group Customer



INDIA



Being the seventh-largest country by area in the world, India stretches from Himalayan peaks to Indian coastlines. The country is well-known for the population of Hindus, ancient mosques, stunning landscape, centuries-old rituals and the world-class curry dishes. While those brilliant things keep attracting people to visit India, one may have a different feeling due to the dust, dung smell, the crowd and the risk of food poisoning. Travellers either love it or hate it. But the choice they have been always making is to pack up and go.



OVERVIEW

Quick Facts



POPULATION
1.3 bils (as of 2016)



LANGUAGE
Hindi



CURRENCY
Indian Rupee (INR)



TIME ZONE
UTC +5:30 hours



EXCHANGE RATE

	1 USD	1 AUD	1 Euro
to INR	68	48	78



ELECTRICITY
230V/50Hz
Plug type C,D & M

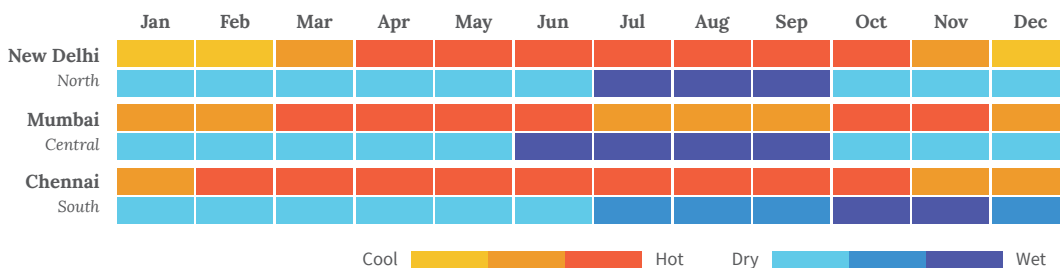


POPULAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS
Indira Gandhi Airport (DEL), Delhi
Chhatrapati Shivaji Airport (BOM), Mumbai
Chennai Airport (MAA), Chennai



Weather

The best time to visit India is between October and March when the weather is more likely to be warm, sunny, and dry. The period between April and June seems to receive the most heat in a year.

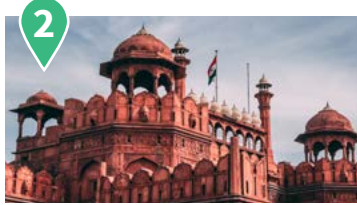


WHERE TO GO



Amritsar

Amritsar is a holy city and a destination for the Sikh religion. Coming to this place, visitors would not want to miss the famous Golden Temple or “Harmandir Sahib”, built more than 400 years ago and by true gold.



Delhi

Located in the north, this massive city is home to the famous Red Fort, Humayun’s Tomb, India Gate and many more famous attractions. Delhi is considered to be one of the oldest cities in the world.



Agra

The city is immersed in a splendid Mughal charm and takes pride as the only city in the world that has 3 world heritage sites. The iconic Taj Mahal, magnificent Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri make Agra a must-go destination in India.



Varanasi

Also known as the city of “Moksha”, the city has enchanting ancient temples and holds a spiritual significance to Hindus. It is believed that dipping in the holy water of river Ganga will wash away your sins.



Mumbai

Mumbai or Bombay is the financial capital of India and home of the great Bollywood. Travellers can find an extreme standard of livings, amusing nightlife and colonial British architectures around the city.



Goa

Goa is a beach city located on the western coast of India. The town witnesses a unique blend of Portugal and Indian cultures, attracting thousands of tourists each year. Some of the best beaches are Candolim Beach, Anjura and Paloem.



Kerala

Possessing a tropical beauty, Kerala attracts visitors to its backwater biodiversity, palm trees, pristine beaches and unique houseboat experience. Besides, there’s a tiger preserve in the area with fewer crowds than anywhere else.



WANT MORE?

There are much more beautiful destinations not being mentioned here. Visit our website to explore the bigger India



WHAT

TO DO

01

Trek in the Himalayas

The Markha Valley and Hemis Festival trek is probably the most popular in the Indian Himalaya. There are stunning mountain scenery, remote monasteries and a chance to see snow leopards. While trekking always requires a certain level of physical strengths, anyone can do a short one to experience the Himalayas biodiversity.



02

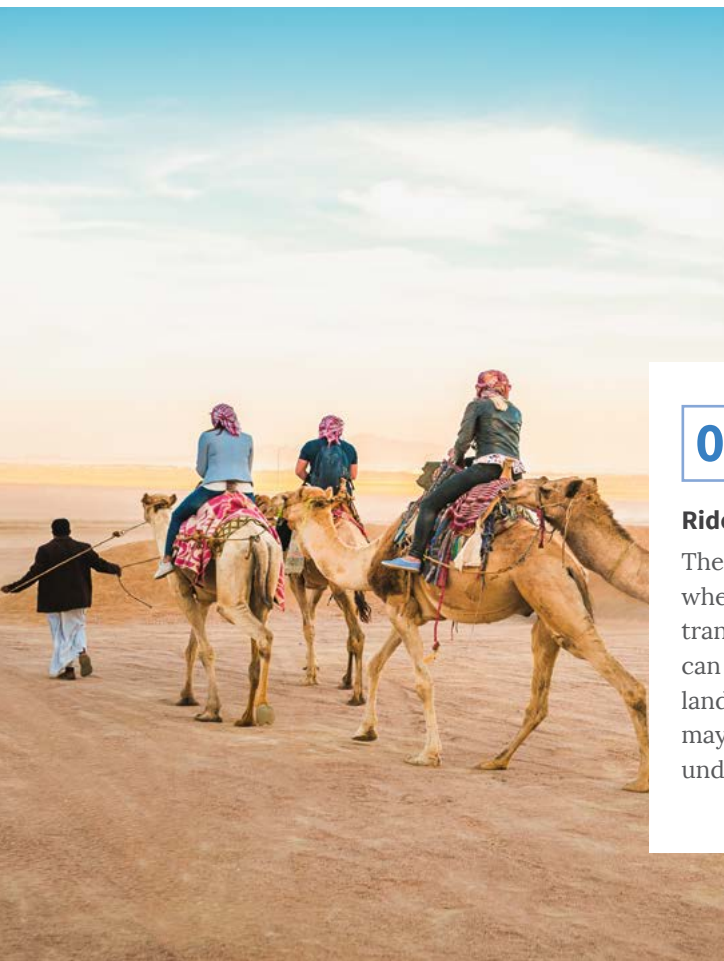
Practice Yoga

Rishikesh is well-known as the national capital of health. It is said that you would come in with a disturbed mind and come out feeling like Lord Buddha. While the magic of the land is still a doubt, it is true that there is traditional self-healing science, including yoga, going on in this place. Plus, the river, nature and the local life would take anyone to their extreme relaxation.

03

Ride a camel

There are deserts around the country, where camels can be found as a means of transportation. In Jodhpur or Jaisalmer, tourists can take a camel safari tour to explore the desert landscape on the back of a camel. Some trips may last up to a week and include night camping under the stars.





04

Stay on a houseboat

Located in the south of India, Kerala has been famous for its backwater and houseboats. While the waterways system is intended to transport people goods from towns to towns, tourists often find beautiful landscape and interesting local lives along the bank. Spending a day or 2 on a houseboat is absolutely an amazing experience that one must do while in India.



05

Get a Henna tattoo

Henna or Mehendi is a kind of temporary tattoo being decorated to the hands and feet. In the past, Henna was supposed to adorn young women during social and holiday celebrations since the late Bronze Age. They represent luck, joy and beauty. In most cities, there are Henna artists in the markets.

06

Tour the Bollywood

Bollywood in India is like Hollywood in America. People love them and respect them as they usually release great movies. When taking a tour around their studio in Mumbai, visitors may be offered to star in one of the projects on spot. Some people think it is fun and some may get embarrassed.

07

Get Ayurvedic treatment

Ayurvedic technically means life and science. This treatment focuses on restoring the balance between mind, body and spirit. Generally, the treatment uses a combination of medicines, exercises and meal plans to fix people's physical and mental issues. It is worth a try.



INSIGHTS

Getting a Visa

Type	Visa On Arrival	Visa Before Arrival	E-visa
What	Apply at the airport.	Apply at the nearest Indian embassy.	Apply online.
Pros	No preparation needed prior to leaving.	Save time at the airport.	100% online application Save time at the airport.
Cons	Queue up at the airport. Only citizens from Japan and South Korea are eligible.	Must apply in person.	Only citizens from certain countries are eligible. Refer to https://indianvisaonline.gov.in

Local Money

Local currency can be exchanged at the banks or authorized agencies.

Popular banks are State Bank of India, Canara Bank, and Punjab National Bank.

**Do not make any transaction at unauthorized shops. There's a fine and the difference is not worth it.*



1 rupee



2 rupee



5 rupee



10 rupee



10 rupee



20 rupee



50 rupee



100 rupee



200 rupee



500 rupee



2,000 rupee

MOVING AROUND

AIRLINES

Domestic airlines in India is quite competitive regarding prices. Popular airlines are Go Air, Indigo Airlines, SpiceJet, Vistara and AirAsia India. Air India is the national airline.



IndiGo



FERRIES

Waterways transportation is only available between coastline cities and stays very limited. For a ferry ride between Mumbai and Goa, the average cost is around ^{USD}25. A flight for the same route costs twice as much.



TAXI

The taxi rate is about ^{USD}0.5/km. If you hail a taxi without a meter, it is better to negotiate the price before getting in the car.



BUS

Not all buses are air-conditioned. For city buses, the price is very cheap but it is crowded and chaotic. For long-distance bus, there are sleeper options with a bit more comfort. However, trains prove to be a better option for similar prices.



AUTO RICKSHAW

Similar to tuk-tuks in Thailand, auto rickshaws offer a more mobile and economical way of moving around compared to taxis. The average rate is around ^{USD}0.15 per km.



TRAIN

The rail network is huge, connecting a lot of destinations across the country. For long distance travel, there are *Unreserved Class*, *Sleeper Class*, *Air-conditioned Class*, *First-Class Air-conditioned Class* and *Executive Air-conditioned Class*. While the prices increase respectively for the classes, travelling by trains remains the most comfort, economical and beautiful option.



HUNGRY?

01 Tandoori Chicken

Originated from the north, this roasted chicken dish is marinated with yogurt and the spice mixture tandoori masala. Cayenne pepper, red chilli powder or Kashmiri red chilli powder may be added for extra kicks.



02 Chaat

The dish typically includes crispy fried chips, lentils, fried potatoes, green chutney, yogurt, onion, and chickpeas. One can find a lot of variations of it on the streets.



03 Red Lamb (Rogan Josh)

Braised lamb chunks are cooked with a gravy based on browned onions or shallots, yogurt, garlic, ginger and other spices. While the name is hot, the heat is actually cooled down by the cream.



04 Samosa

These deep-fried snacks are made out of flour, spiced potatoes, onions, peas, lentils, and meat. This dish is served with mint sauce or chutney usually.

05 Masala Chai

Made by brewing black tea with a mixture of aromatic spices and herbs. The drink can be combined with steaming hot milk.



STAY HEALTHY

While India's healthcare system is generally good, there are still big differences between the public and private sectors. However, the private sectors prove to have better quality and lower cost services. Common diseases in India are diarrhea, typhoid, and tetanus. In an emergency, you must quickly get transferred to the nearest medical centres for treatment and advice. We highly recommend that all travellers should purchase travel insurance for peace of mind.



EMERGENCY DIAL

100
POLICE

101
FIRE

102
MEDIC



STAY CONNECTED

A 4G sim card costs about ^{USD}6 for 3GB of data and some call credits (Airtel).

Popular Network Providers are Vodafone, Airtel, and Jio.

STAY SAFE

Heat exhaustion: The climate is hot all year-round, which may cause dehydration and heatstroke. Always bring a bottle of water along with you, wear your sunhat and use sunscreen to avoid the risks of heat exhaustion.

Pickpocketing and thieves: Travellers should only carry small cash amounts. Do not put purses or wallets in the back pockets and stay cautious when entering crowded areas.



CULTURE

FESTIVAL

› Festival of colours (Holi)

March - Nationwide

Not only being famous in India, but the festival of colour is also well-known in the world. This event is to celebrate the victory of good (Prince Prahlad) over the evil (Holika) as well as the arrival of spring. Everyone will have fun being soaked in colours. Also, people make a huge Holika bonfire and sing and dance around it. While the festival may take place across the country, the most vibrant celebrations can be seen in the north.

› Festival of light (Diwali)

October - Nationwide

Diwali is one of the most significant Hindu festivals of India, marking the return of Lord Rama, along with his wife Sita and brother Lakshmana. During the festival, houses are adorned with clay lamps, candles, and Ashok leaves. People put on new clothes and fill up their belly with sweets. There are fireworks, crackers and shows going on everywhere.



› Onam

September - Kerala

The festival intends to celebrate the homecoming of the legendary king Mahabali. People would wear traditional clothes, decorate houses with Pookalam and prepare Onasadya (elaborate meal of about 13 dishes). There are snake boat races, clap dances, Kathakali dance, and Pulikali procession.



ETIQUETTES



Stay local. Stay right

#1

Use your right hand when handing something to others. The right hand is considered to be more respectful.

#2

Do not touch anyone's head, especially the monks.

#3

Intrusive questions are common. Privacy is not a big deal in India. Try not to be surprised.

#4

Punctuality is not a big deal either. It is normal when people show up 10 minutes late.

#5

Do not point with your feet or fingers.

#6

Avoid giving gifts made of leather to Hindus.

#7

When dining, food sharing from the same dish is highly encouraged. Just do not share your utensils.

#8

Avoid showing affections in public as interactions between opposite sexes are highly discouraged.

#9

Dress conservatively in public, especially when entering temples and sacred places.

#10

Respect the elders.



TRAVEL AGENCY

Employed by Asia travel experts, Asia Vacation Group understands deeply WHERE to go, WHAT to do, and HOW to take your holiday to the fullest



Best Prices



7-day Money Back



100% Departure Guarantee

Our tours typically include



Flights



Accommodation



Selective Meals



Transportation



Sightseeing



Tour Guides

**Prices are on per person twin share basis and subject to change without notice.*

Have your own itinerary in mind?

Call us today and let us make your desired journey come alive. Our travel experts are always waiting for you.



TRAVEL HACKS

the CHECKLIST for PACKING

You don't need to pack your whole apartment into your luggage...

Documents

- Passport with at least 6 months expiry date.
- Visa documents.
- E-tickets or printed ticket.
- Hotel list.
- Tour itinerary.

Clothes

- Tshirts, shorts.
- Swimsuit.
- Jackets.
- Hat or cap.

Electronics

- Chargers.
- Electrical adapter and converter.
- Camera kit, including batteries and memory cards.
- Phone, earphones.

Medicines

- Cold/Flu, Diarrhea, Pain Relief,
- Allergy.
- Prescription drug with label and doses description.
- Sunscreen and insect spray.



Money

- Foreign currency in cash.
- Credit card (Mastercard or Visa are more widely accepted).

Packing Gears

- 1 check-in luggage (up to 20/30kg).
- 1 carry-on luggage (up to 7kg).
- 1 small travel bag/backpack.

Shoes

- Comfortable walking shoes.
- Sandals.

Accessories

- Sunglasses.
- Umbrella.
- Hat or cap.

Toiletries

- Toothbrush and toothpaste.
- Soap/shower gel.
- Feminine product.
- Hand sanitizer or wet wipe.

TRAVEL HACKS

ON THE GO

SURVIVAL TIPS



SOUVENIRS

For those who do not want to get home empty handed.

- Silk saris.
- Indian Tea.
- Cashmere wool scarf.
- Oil lamps.

TALK LOCAL

Some common Hindi phrases that may come in handy.

English	Hindi
Hello	nah-mas-te
Thank you	shoo-kree-yah
Very good	a-chah
Yes	haa
No	nahi



BARGAIN

You should only haggle with street vendors and taxi.

Rule#1: Study the prices with different vendors.

Rule#2: Do not use this move if the price is too low already.

Rule#3: Start bidding at 50% of the offer received and work your way up.

Rule#4: If 50% works, walk away immediately. It can be much lower.

Rule#5: Just walk away...



BOOKING FORM

Please fill in the form below and kindly send them to our office. Our address is on the last page of this guide.

SECTION 1: TRIP DETAILS

1. Which tour do you want to book?

.....

2. Preferred room type

Twin Double Triple

3. Where will you depart from?

Sydney Melbourne Brisbane
 Adelaide Canberra Perth
 Auckland Other (Please specify below)

.....

4. Would you like to purchase travel insurance

Yes No

5. Preferred Flight Class

Economy Premium Economy
 Business First Class

6. When do you want to travel

..... (dd/mm/yyyy)

7. Number of passengers

.....

8. Add-on Tours (Please name all of them)

.....

.....

.....

9. Special Request (transport, accommodation, etc)

.....

.....

* Final price will vary based on your selections. But don't worry, you are still having the best rates possible

SECTION 2: LEAD PASSENGER

10. First Name

11. Middle Name

12. Last Name

13. Street Address 1

14. City

15. State

16. Postal Code

17. Street Address 2

18. Country

19. Nationality

20. Email Address

21. Phone Number

SECTION 3: OTHER INFORMATION

22. Would you like to hear about our latest offers and promotions? Yes No

Terms & Agreement (Please read carefully)

If submitted by one party only, I confirm that I am authorized to sign on behalf of all passengers listed on this booking form. All parties have read, understood and agree to abide by the terms, booking conditions and responsibilities.

Your signature

Today's Date:...../...../.....



BOOKING CONDITIONS

Reservation & Deposit

Tour prices are subject to availability of tour, airlines, special economy class fare and specific airfare class availability. All services are subject to availability.

Typically, a deposit (from \$199 per passenger) is required within three (3) days of receiving confirmation that the company is holding space for you. Actual amount of deposit may vary depending on tours.

Note that Private Tours and Tailor-Made Tours require a 30% deposit. Passenger names must be provided exactly as per passport, including middle names, at the time of deposit/booking. Any spelling corrections made after a deposit is paid must be sent in writing and will incur additional fees, including any ticket reissue fees. Asia Vacation Group reserves the right to correct any errors in rates quoted or calculated, or any commissions made at any time during your booking. Any verbal quote given is an indication only of the final price and is subject to confirmation in writing.

Amenments & Extra Fees

The following fees will apply:

- Amendments to confirmed and deposited itineraries outside of 30 days prior to departure where the value of the booking is decreased: \$50 per change for admin fee.
- Transferring between tours (within 75 days): See "Cancellation by Customer" for applicable fees and details.
- Reissue of airline tickets: From \$100 per person.
- Once a booking is confirmed, name transfers may incur additional charges.

Cancellation by Customers

All cancellations must be made in writing to Asia Vacation Group and will be subject to the following cancellation charges from the date the written cancellation is received:

- If airline and rail tickets are issued, up to 100% of the airfare and rail fare surcharged.
- If your booking is made with the Budget airlines, up to 100% of package tour.
- If customer wants to change the travel dates and visa issued,

up to 100% of visa fee.

- More than 75 days prior to departure: loss of deposit plus any administration fees
- Between 74 and 59 days prior to departure: 25% of total cost
- Between 58 and 46 days prior to departure: 50% of total cost
- 45 days or less prior to departure: 100% of total cost
- Any "No Show": 100% of total cost

In the event of a cancellation any refunds will be less administration fees and any applicable amendment fees. Asia Vacation Group will endeavour to recover as much as possible from suppliers to pass on to the customer. Regrettably cancellation charges and fees cannot be waived. There can be no exceptions. No refund will be made for any unused portions of the holiday after the departure date. Please note that employees of any overseas company or staff of Asia Vacation Group outside Australia are not authorised to give any guarantees or agreements to customers in respect of refunds or any other matters.

Cancellation by the Company

Asia Vacation Group reserves the right to cancel or vary a tour prior to departure due to insufficient numbers. In such an event, alternative guaranteed travel dates will be offered. Should these options not be acceptable Asia Vacation Group will refund the full price paid, less visa cost. If a tour is cancelled or varied prior to departure due to unforeseeable circumstances such as, but not restricted to, severe weather conditions or force majeure, Asia Vacation Group will refund all monies prior to departure less visa cost, fuel surcharge and any other cancellation fees levied by airlines and other third parties. Unforeseeable circumstances such as force majeure, adverse weather, flight rescheduling, hotel overbooking and faults with transportation or road conditions may also have an effect on the tour itinerary after the commencement date. Any decision made in respect of tour services by independent operators to re-route or amend the itinerary due to any of the above or similar circumstances

is at the discretion of the tour service provider and Asia Vacation Group will not be liable for any claim whatsoever arising from such events.

Responsibilities

Asia Vacation Group acts as a coordinator for all persons taking these tours in the making of all arrangements for transportation, sightseeing and hotel accommodation. The Company does not own, manage, control or operate any transportation vehicle, any hotel or restaurant or any other supplier of services. All receipts and tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier and all services are subject to the laws of the country where the services are provided. The Company acts only as an agent for the owners, contractors and suppliers of transportation and/or other related travel services provided and assumes no responsibility for the loss, theft or damage to baggage or property or for any injury, illness or death or for any damages or claims whatsoever caused arising directly or indirectly from accidents, loss, theft or damage to person or property, delays, transport failure, strikes, wars and uprisings or acts of God etc. over which the Company has no control. We strongly urge all customers to undertake a high level of personal responsibility in order to ensure that possessions, equipment and personal documents are closely monitored and protected at all times.

Privacy

We are collecting your personal information so that we can process your booking. We will also keep you up to date with other Asia Vacation Group's offers and product information that may be of interest to you if you have consented to this. You can opt out of receiving information at any time if you choose to do so. Any personal information you provide will be managed in accordance with Asia Vacation Group's privacy policy.



We are living in a connected world.



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You

NEVER

have to travel

ALONE

