



Pre-Departure Information

ROYAL RAJASTHAN



Table of Contents

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Passport
Visas
Money
Tipping
Special Diets
Communications
Electricity

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Inoculations
Malaria Prevention
Staying Healthy

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Photography
Cultural Considerations
Being a Considerate Traveler

PACKING LIST

The Essentials
WT Gear Store
Luggage
Weight Limits
Notes on Clothing
Clothing
Equipment
Personal First Aid Supplies
Optional Items
Prohibited Items

READING LIST

Essential Reading
Also Recommended

Reminders Before You Go

WELCOME!

We're delighted to welcome you on this adventure! This booklet is designed to guide you in the practical details for preparing for your trip. As you read, if any questions come to mind, feel free to give us a call or send us an email—we're here to help.

PLEASE SEND US

- Trip Application:** Complete, sign, and return your Trip Application form as soon as possible if you have not already done so.
- Medical Form:** Complete, sign, and return your Medical Form as soon as possible if you have not already done so.
- Air Schedule:** Please forward a copy of your email confirmation, which shows your exact flight arrival and departure times. Refer to the Arrival & Departure section of the Detailed Trip Itinerary for instructions. Please review your proposed schedule with Wilderness Travel before purchasing your tickets.
- Passport Photocopy:** Scan* a COLOR copy of your passport photo page and email it to us as a JPG or PDF attachment, or send us a high quality photocopy by mail (immediately upon reserving your trip).
- Visa Photocopy:** Once you have obtained the required visa in your passport, please scan* a copy of your visa and email it to us as a JPG or PDF attachment, or send us a high quality photocopy by mail.

**If you are scanning documents to email, we suggest a maximum resolution of 300 dpi.*

PLEASE CAREFULLY REVIEW

- Travel Documents & Medical Information:** Carefully review the Travel Documents and Medical Information sections of this booklet to familiarize yourself with Passport and Visa entry requirements for your destination, as well as any recommended inoculations.
- Optional Travel Insurance:** Review the Trip Cancellation & Transfer Fee Schedule included in the Detailed Itinerary. We recommend that all trip members purchase Travel Insurance.
- Extra Services:** Request any Extra Services (hotel nights, transfers, extensions) with your WT office contact using the Extra Services Request Form sent with your confirmation packet.
- Final Documents:** Approximately three weeks before your trip, we will send you final departure documents, including hotel and local contact information and rendezvous instructions.

QUESTIONS?

Call: 1-800-368-2794, go to our **website** (www.wildernesstravel.com) or e-mail us at: info@wildernesstravel.com.

Travel Information

PASSPORT

A valid passport is required for your trip. Be sure to check the expiration date. Your passport must be valid for six months after your date of exit from India. In addition, we recommend your passport have at least two completely blank visa pages for every country you will be visiting. It is very important that the blank pages say “Visas” at the top. The last few pages of your passport, which say “Amendments and Endorsements,” and the final page of your passport, which may not have a page number, are not considered to be legitimate visa pages. The service of adding pages for visas was discontinued as of January 1, 2016. You can request a new passport through **US Passport Services Office** (<http://travel.state.gov/passport>) or use a visa service agency, which can take care of your passport renewal and expedite the process, if needed. We recommend **Passport Visas Express** (<http://www.passportvisasexpress.com/?affId=2120>). Be sure to allow sufficient time to acquire this before your trip.

It is a good idea to carry photocopies of your passport’s photo page and any acquired visa pages for your trip (if applicable) in case your passport is lost or as an additional piece of identification, as well as two extra passport photos.

VISAS

US citizens need a tourist visa for India. **Indian visas cannot be obtained upon arrival; you must obtain your visa prior to departure.** We suggest applying for your visa 2-3 months prior to trip departure, as visa processing can take time.

Currently, there are two ways for US citizens to obtain a visa for India:

1.) **Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA), E-Visa Issued Online:** US citizens can obtain an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA), which is valid for 365 days from the date of issue. This ETA allows for multiple entries within the 365 days, although each individual visit cannot exceed 180 days.

Currently, this ETA is valid for entry through 28 designated airports and 5 designated seaports, but visitors have the flexibility to depart/exit from any of the authorized Immigration Check Posts (ICPs) in India. Upon arrival, you will need to present your physical ETA document and passport to the Indian immigration officials. Please make sure that you also have a printed copy of your international flight itinerary.

You must apply for this ETA through India’s Ministry of Home Affairs at the following **website**(<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>).

All applicants will need to upload a recent passport photo as part of the application process.

The ETA application will ask for a “Reference Name in India,” as well as a “Reference Name in United States of America.” For this, please put the following:

Reference Name in India

Name: Exotic Journeys

Address: Office No. 7, 2nd Floor
Local Shopping Centre
B-7 Vasant Arcade, Vasant Kunj
New Delhi, 110 070
India
Phone: +91-112-612-4069

Reference Name in United States

Name: Wilderness Travel
Address: 1102 Ninth St
Berkeley, CA, 94710
USA
Phone: +1-510-558-2488

For more details on the process, including instructions and ETA fees, please visit the official website.

2.) **Physical Visa, Stamped into Passport:** You can also apply for a longer-stay visa that is stamped into your passport. In order to obtain this visa, you must go through Cox & Kings Global Services (CKGS), as they are the official visa processing agent for India. You cannot apply directly through an Indian Embassy or Consulate.

You must apply for the visa through the **CKGS website**(<https://www.in.ckgs.us/>).

If you expect to return to India in the near future, you may want to consider obtaining a 5- or 10-year, multiple-entry visa, if this option is available in your jurisdiction. Please visit CKGS for more details.

The visa application form will ask for a “Reference Name in India,” as well as a “Reference Name in United States of America.” For this, please put the following:

Reference Name in India

Name: Exotic Journeys
Address: Office No. 7, 2nd Floor
Local Shopping Centre
B-7 Vasant Arcade, Vasant Kunj
New Delhi, 110 070
India
Phone: +91-112-612-4069

Reference Name in United States

Name: Wilderness Travel
Address: 1102 Ninth St
Berkeley, CA, 94710
USA
Phone: +1-510-558-2488

3.) **Passport Visas Express (PVE):** If you need assistance, you can also choose to obtain your visa through our designated

visa processing service, Passport Visas Express (PVE).

Please check service fees, processing times, and specific Indian visa information on the **PVE website**(<https://www.passportvisasexpress.com/?affId=2120>).

When contacting PVE, please let them know that you are on a Wilderness Travel trip.

All visa regulations are subject to change. If you are a citizen of any country other than the US, please check with a local consulate for entry requirements.

MONEY

India's currency is the Indian rupee (INR). We suggest you bring your funds in US cash. You can exchange money at the international airport on arrival and at our hotels during the trip. You will be issued a currency exchange form each time you change money; keep these forms as you will need them to change rupees back into dollars at the airport upon departure.

Credit cards are accepted in most shops, hotels, and restaurants in India. It is a good idea to have some small US cash (\$1s) on hand for minor expenses. There are ATMs at the international airports, and you can use these upon arrival in India. Please note that there are ATMs elsewhere in India, but they may not be conveniently located near the hotels on our trips.

You will need to budget spending money for gratuities, for any meals not included in the trip itinerary, and for personal items such as snacks, phone calls, etc. Beer, wine, spirits, and sodas are complimentary at our private camp in Pushkar but not at hotels. A great variety of craftworks are available in India. Depending on your taste, you could spend anything from \$100 to \$300 or much more.

To use an ATM internationally, you must have a four-digit PIN. If you plan to use your credit cards, inform your credit card company before your departure that you will be using the card abroad.

TIPPING

Tipping is completely discretionary, but over the years, clients have asked us for tipping guidelines to reward outstanding service. A range of reference would be \$125-175 per trip member for the Trip Leader and \$70-80 per trip member for the local guides/drivers. During the trip, the Trip Leader takes care of tips for waiters at restaurants and for porters for luggage handling.

If you are doing the post-trip Villages of Rajasthan Extension, a range of reference would be \$40-50 for the Trip Leader, and \$20-30 per trip member for the local guide(s)/driver(s).

SPECIAL DIETS

We will do our best to accommodate special dietary needs, however, please keep in mind that certain cultural differences or limitations due to logistics can make it extremely difficult and at times impossible to accommodate dietary restrictions. Please inform us at least eight weeks before your trip if you have a restricted diet. It is important to bring a flexible attitude and supplemental snacks.

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephone

The international dialing code for India is 91. Please contact your cell phone company for specific instructions for international use.

Email & Internet Access

Internet access is available at all of our hotels except Pushkar.

ELECTRICITY

India has 230-volt current and either C or D plug types. Bring a converter and plug adapter kit for appliance use.

Medical Information

The following recommendations should be used as a guideline only; consult your physician for medical advice. It is vital that you let Wilderness Travel know of any medical problems, allergies, or physical limitations you may have. Please fill out and return the personal medical questionnaire, and feel free to consult us if you have any questions about your ability to undertake this particular trip.

Wilderness Travel is not a medical facility and has no expertise or responsibility regarding what medications or inoculations you and your physician decide are necessary for your safe participation in the trip.

Traveler's health information is available from the **Centers for Disease Control**. (<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/index.htm>)
Medical travel products are available from **Travel Health Medicine** (<http://www.travmed.com>) and from **Magellan's Travel Supplies**. (<http://www.magellans.com>)

INOCULATIONS

Entry requirements are subject to change; check with the Centers for Disease Control for updates. All shots should be entered on your International Health Card (yellow card), which is provided by the facility giving the shots. Keep it with your passport while traveling (however, the card is not required to enter India). This provides an important personal record for you to refer to when making future travel plans. We recommend you discuss the following with your physician:

Polio

People who have received the primary series of at least three doses of polio vaccine are considered fully immunized. People who are unsure of their status should receive the vaccine (three doses spaced at intervals).

Hepatitis A

The vaccines HAVRIX and VAQTA (two injections, six to 18 months apart) give long-term protection against Hepatitis A and are worthwhile if you travel regularly to developing countries.

Tetanus Booster

A booster is strongly recommended (effective for 10 years).

Typhoid

The CDC recommends the shot or the oral vaccine, Vivotif Berna. You may not be able to take the oral vaccine simultaneously with mefloquine (for malaria prevention).

MALARIA PREVENTION

Malaria is a serious but preventable disease spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. Please discuss antimalarial medication with your doctor, who will explain various antimalarials and their side effects and recommend a regimen for you. In addition to medication, a further precaution against malaria is to wear long sleeves and long pants at dusk. Thin clothing should be sprayed with insect repellent, especially around the elbows and ankles. Use repellent containing DEET.

If, after returning from your trip, you have a persistent fever with chills, muscle aches, and headache, report to your doctor the possibility of exposure to malaria.

For further malaria information, consult your doctor or the **CDC Malaria Hotline**(<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/malinfo.htm>): 888-232-3228.

STAYING HEALTHY

In hotels, don't brush your teeth with tap water; use bottled water. Don't use ice in your drinks unless you are sure it was made with treated water. When in doubt, ask your Trip Leader for guidelines.

Helpful Information

PHOTOGRAPHY

Camera Recommendations

With the many advances in digital technology, a simple compact digital camera or even your smartphone is capable of taking pictures suitable for the needs of most people. For higher quality images and the ability to use long lenses for closer wildlife pictures, a DSLR camera is well worthwhile, though heavier. Most digital cameras and phones have good video options, but you may want to consider a GoPro for a lightweight, waterproof option. Always practice ahead of time with new equipment and bring your manual with you. Camera equipment is available for rent from **Borrow Lenses** (<https://www.borrowlenses.com/discount/wildernesstravel>), with a 10% discount offered to Wilderness Travel clients. This is an especially good idea for renting large zoom lenses that you may need for just one trip.

Camera Accessories

We recommend bringing at least two large capacity memory cards or a small digital storage unit (or tablet) to back up your photos, freeing space on your memory cards. Don't forget to bring a battery charger and a backup battery so one is always charged and ready to use. For trips where you may be away from power sources for multiple days, consider looking into a solar-powered battery charger or buying additional backup batteries, and check that you have the appropriate adapter for the electrical outlets in your destination.

Sharing Your Images

We would love for you to share photos from your trip, and with your permission, may even use your photos in our marketing materials or on our photo blog. We request that you send us a small sample of your best images. Please email your photos to **wtphotoblog@gmail.com** or tag us **@WildernessTravel** on social media.

Photography Etiquette

When taking pictures of local people, be aware of cultural considerations. Approaching people with a warm smile and using polite gestures or simple phrases to ask permission to photograph them usually works well. It is always recommended to engage people in conversation before asking to photograph them, but if people do not wish to have their photo taken, please honor their requests. We urge travelers to avoid giving money in exchange for photo opportunities, which makes it harder for future travelers to have a meaningful personal interaction with local people. Please always heed your Trip Leader's guidelines for what is appropriate.

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

In India, folk beliefs and religion merge until they become almost indistinguishable. It is difficult for travelers in India to comprehend the traditions and rituals involved in everyday life. As in all travel situations, it is important to observe the local people carefully and use common sense. For example, ask permission before taking a photo, entering a temple, washing at a tap, or touching a baby. You'll almost always find the Indians friendly and helpful. A few guidelines are offered below.

Body Language

When seated, it is not polite to show the bottoms of the feet, and it is especially rude to point them in someone else's direction. Therefore you should not stretch your legs out or cross them with the sole turned up or out. Also, never step over

or on any part of a person as this exposes them to the bottom of your feet. The purity of the body is viewed as being the highest at the head, becoming progressively dirtier down to the feet. This also makes patting children or other people on the head ill-mannered. Touching a person of the opposite sex, even on the shoulder or hand, can easily be misinterpreted and it's best to refrain from doing so.

Clothing

Be modest in the way you dress while visiting India. (See Notes on Clothing in this booklet.) Women should wear skirts falling at least to the knee, or pants. Bathing suits, halter tops, and tank tops are considered an unseemly display in India and will embarrass local people. Especially in and around temples, wear long pants or a skirt, and a top that covers the shoulders and upper arms. Men may wear shorts up to mid-thigh, but no shorter. It is permitted for men to rest and sunbathe without a shirt, but it is considered extremely rude for men to walk about bare-chested.

Water

Spring water is considered sacred and is protected by ritual. River and stream water is not subject to these taboos. Many villages have only small springs from which to draw their water. Do not casually take water from these springs. It is best to receive permission from a local person. If there is no one nearby, then follow these guidelines: Use only a very clean utensil to draw water. Do not drink directly from this utensil or from the spring. Do not brush your teeth or wash anything near the spring. Carry water 20 feet or more away from the spring before washing. If the water source becomes polluted by careless practice, the consequences for the village are disastrous.

Shrines

Along almost every street and trail you will find temples and shrines of all sorts. Regardless of their size, they are revered with great devotion. When entering a temple, ask about or observe local practice. In some temples, shoes must be removed. In some, it is forbidden to wear leather of any kind (such as a leather belt) or to eat.

Begging

Begging is a tradition in India and can be difficult for westerners to confront. There are no easy answers as to whether to give small amounts of money to beggars. It is ultimately up to each of you to decide. Children along popular travel routes often ask for candy, pens, or money. Rewarding this behavior sets up a barrage of requests for more, a dependency on products not locally available, and in the case of sweets, an increasing dental problem. We, therefore, ask that you do not give anything to children: no candy, pens, balloons, or money. If you like, you can bring pens, crayons, large felt-tip pens, paper, maps, or postcards to donate to schools we pass along the way.

Homes

Indians are very hospitable and it is common for them to invite travelers into their homes. If your hosts take off their shoes before entering a household or room, do likewise. Inside, cooking and eating areas should be treated with special respect. Avoid going into the hearth unless specifically invited there; it is sacred, and home to a guardian spirit. Do not touch the fire area or dry your shoes by it, and do not point your feet at or burn trash in the fire. Do not touch food or eating utensils used by local people. Also, many Hindus cannot eat food that has been touched by a foreigner, so don't offer anything from your plate.

BEING A CONSIDERATE TRAVELER

Please show respect for the cultures we are visiting by observing local customs concerning appropriate dress, particularly in sacred places. Your Trip Leader is always available to answer any questions that you may have regarding this. If it is necessary to use a cell phone during the trip, please do so privately. Smoking is rarely an issue these days, but if you do smoke, please do so only away from the group.

Packing List

THE ESSENTIALS

- Air tickets (or E-tickets)
- Visa for India
- Passport
- One other picture ID, such as a driver's license
- Expense money

WT GEAR STORE

To help you prepare for your next WT adventure, we've put together a great collection of top brands including Patagonia, Outdoor Research, Eagle Creek, and more at our **WT Gear Store** (<http://wildernesstravel.newheadings.com>).

LUGGAGE

- Standard hard or soft-sided suitcase, with a small padlock (must be unlocked for air travel in the US). Rolling suitcases have been the preferred choice of past travelers.
- Daypack for a water bottle, camera, and other items you want with you during the day.
- Small roll-up duffel to carry home purchases.

Please remember to pack your batteries, liquids, pocket knife, or other sharp objects in your checked luggage.

WEIGHT LIMITS

On the internal flights for this departure, each passenger can bring **one piece of checked luggage with a weight limit of 33 lbs., as well as one carry-on of 15 lbs.**

If your baggage exceeds this weight limit, you may be required to pay excess baggage fees on the spot.

NOTES ON CLOTHING

We recommend that you bring comfortable, lightweight clothing and shoes made for walking. India is still a traditional culture. Visitors should take care to dress modestly. For women, long pants, skirts, or knee-length hiking shorts are fine. Skimpy or revealing tops are generally frowned upon. Men should wear shirts with sleeves and long pants or knee-length hiking shorts. In some temples, shoes must be removed.

CLOTHING

The clothing list below is provided as a guideline only; we encourage you to pack as lightly as possible. Laundry service is available at most of the hotels.

- Light to medium-weight fleece jacket or sweater for the desert, where temperatures are cold at night in the winter months
- Lightweight rain jacket and/or folding umbrella (umbrellas can also be used for sun)
- Lightweight long-sleeved shirts
- Short-sleeved shirts or T-shirts
- Light cotton or quick-drying synthetic pants
- Lightweight skirts for women
- Knee-length hiking shorts
- Sturdy walking shoes or running shoes with good traction
- Tevas or other sandals
- Underwear/socks. Synthetics dry faster.
- Shade hat with a wide brim
- Sleepwear
- Bathing suit (for hotel pools)
- Casual city/hotel attire

EQUIPMENT

- Good quality sunglasses
- Plastic bags to organize items in luggage
- Flashlight, spare batteries—important for using at our tents in Pushkar!

PERSONAL FIRST AID SUPPLIES

Every trip member should bring a small kit for personal use. Your own experience will influence your choices.

- Sunscreen SPF 30 or higher, lip balm with sunscreen. We recommend mineral-based sunscreens with zinc oxide or titanium dioxide because they do not contain harsh chemicals that are harmful to the environment. Brands such as Honest Company, Badger, and Alba Botanica are found in most sporting goods stores and drugstores.
- Aspirin, ibuprofen, or Tylenol for muscle pain or headaches.
- Topical antibiotic (such as Neosporin) for cuts, bites, or sores
- Insect repellent. Repellents with DEET are recommended. DEET content of about 30-35% is ideal (higher DEET content is not recommended). Wipe DEET off your hands before touching plastic surfaces (such as binoculars) because it can damage the plastic. Aerosol repellents are useful for spraying on clothes.
- Blister kit. Look for the long-lasting gel-type bandages that you can apply directly on blisters, such as Band-Aid Advanced Healing Bandages or Curad Gel Multi-Day Bandages. "Liquid band-aids," such as New-Skin, are useful because they dry rapidly to form a tough protective cover over a blister.
- Anti-bacterial gel for hand washing
- Antihistamine such as Benadryl
- Pepto-Bismol tablets for indigestion and diarrhea
- Imodium for diarrhea. If you wish to bring an antibiotic for diarrhea prophylaxis, please consult your physician.
- Prescription medications properly labeled
- Spare contact lenses or spare prescription glasses

OPTIONAL ITEMS

- Water bottle (note: bottled water is widely available on the trip)
- Camera, spare batteries, memory cards, etc.
- Reading/writing material
- Converter/plug adapter kit for appliance use in hotels
- Travel alarm clock, small mirror
- Earplugs
- Money belt or neck pouch. Always carry your passport, credit cards, and cash with you in a money belt or neck pouch tucked down inside your shirt or blouse.

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Satellite phones are no longer allowed to be brought into India. If you bring a satellite phone to India, it will be confiscated and you could be subject to serious penalties, including arrest. Please double-check entry requirements on your own before traveling.

Reading List

ESSENTIAL READING

India

Stanley Wolpert

2009, 281 PAGES

Wolpert's reflections on India -- its religion and philosophy, its art, culture and politics -- make for a literate, succinct primer.

India Northwest Adventure Map

National Geographic Maps

2011

A double-sided full-color map of Northwest India at a scale of 1:1,400,000 with good shaded relief, topographic detail, roads, waterways and basic travel information. Printed on waterproof, tear-resistant paper. Two sides. 20 x 31 inches.

Nine Lives, In Search of the Sacred in Modern India

William Dalrymple

2011, 256 PAGES

From Sufi dervish and Buddhist monk to outcast and temple worshiper: nine people, nine lives, all captured by Dalrymple as he journeys throughout India in search of remarkable individuals transformed by religion. At turns bemusing, dazzling and heart-wrenching.

Footprint Rajasthan Handbook

Matt Barrett

2011, 352 PAGES

This wonderfully informative guide in the practical Footprint series includes background information on the history, attractions and culture of Rajasthan.

ALSO RECOMMENDED

Birds of India

Tim Inskipp

2012, 384 PAGES

Thoroughly revised, with 73 new plates and many others updated or repainted, the second edition of the masterful Birds of India now features all maps and text opposite the plates for quicker and easier reference.

Lonely Planet India Phrasebook

Omkar Koul

2014, 400 PAGES

A handy, palm-sized guide to pronunciation, basic grammar and essential vocabulary for the traveler.

In Spite of the Gods

Edward Luce

2008, 346 PAGES

Luce tackles the challenges and reality of the world's largest democracy with insight and balance in this portrait of a nation in transition.

May You Be the Mother of a Hundred Sons, A Journey Among the Women of India

Elisabeth Bumiller

1991, 220 PAGES

A wonderfully written and fascinating portrayal of Indian women from Bollywood stars to Indira Gandhi to prostitutes. It's an insightful portrait of the country as seen through the eyes of its women.

Darsan, Seeing the Divine Image in India

Diana L. Eck

1998, 115 PAGES

Tremendously useful for the traveler, this rigorous guide explains the significance and meaning of Hindu temples, festivals and ritual. Darsan, which translates as "seeing," reveals religious expression in India.

Indian Art

Vidya Dehejia

1998, 448 PAGES

A beautifully illustrated, very readable history of Indian art and architecture. It considers the religious and intellectual contexts of three thousand years of Indian art, including the modern era.

Gandhi, An Autobiography, or the Story of My Experiments with Truth

Mohandas K. Gandhi

1993, 528 PAGES

There is no substitute for reading Gandhi in his own simple, direct prose. A highly recommended glimpse into the personality and life of this remarkable figure.

India, A Traveler's Literary Companion

Chandrabhas Choudhury

2010, 256 PAGES

Each of these 14 stories evokes place and landscape, providing an excellent introduction both to contemporary writers and to India's diverse cultures and history.

Kim

Rudyard Kipling

2011, 432 PAGES

For the sheer pleasure of its prose, insight into the British in India and its extraordinary sense of place, you can't do better than Kipling's Great Game classic about a boy who travels the Grand Trunk Road with the Dalai Lama.

Midnight's Children

Salman Rushdie

2006, 533 PAGES

Crowned Best of the Booker in 2008, Rushdie's greatest novel is a madcap, comic take on the birth of modern India in all its splendid and unexpected manifestations.

World Religions: Eastern Traditions

Willard G. Oxtoby

2014, 515 PAGES

A clear and insightful introduction to Eastern religions by a team of scholars, covering Hindu, Jain, Sikh, Buddhist and East Asian traditions. Scholarly but still rewarding for the general reader.

Love Jaipur, Rajasthan

Fiona Caulfield

2015, 172 PAGES

The exuberant Caulfield includes her favorite palaces and places, experiences, get-aways, markets, shops and must-sees in this rather remarkable, carefully curated hand-crafted guide. With sections on Jodhpur, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Agra and Rajasthan.

Monumental India

Amit Pasricha

2008, 224 PAGES

Pasricha's dramatic photographs show the splendor and variety of northern India, from Hindu and Jain temple complexes, imposing Islamic tombs and mosques, to serene Buddhist monasteries and stupas, colonial and royal palaces and majestic forts.

Ramayana, Divine Loophole

Sanjay Patel

2010, 208 PAGES

Pixar animator Sanjay Patel uses whimsical illustrations to retell the beloved epic from Hindu mythology. Over 100 colorful full-spread illustrations bring the adventures of Rama to life as he endeavors to rescue his wife Sita from the demon king.

Dreaming in Hindi, Coming Awake in Another Language

Katherine Russell Rich

2010, 384 PAGES

Rich skewers the hilarity and challenges of taking on not just a new language but also a new culture in this spirited tale of life in Udaipur.

Empires of the Indus, The Story of a River

Alice Albinia

2010, 368 PAGES

Albinia follows the great river from Pakistan upstream and back in time, tracing 2,000 miles of geography and five millennia of history.

The Romantics

Pankaj Mishra

2001, 272 PAGES

The story of a Brahmin youth who travels to the holy city of Benares and falls in with a motley crew of Westerners enamored of India.

Revised: April 25, 2019