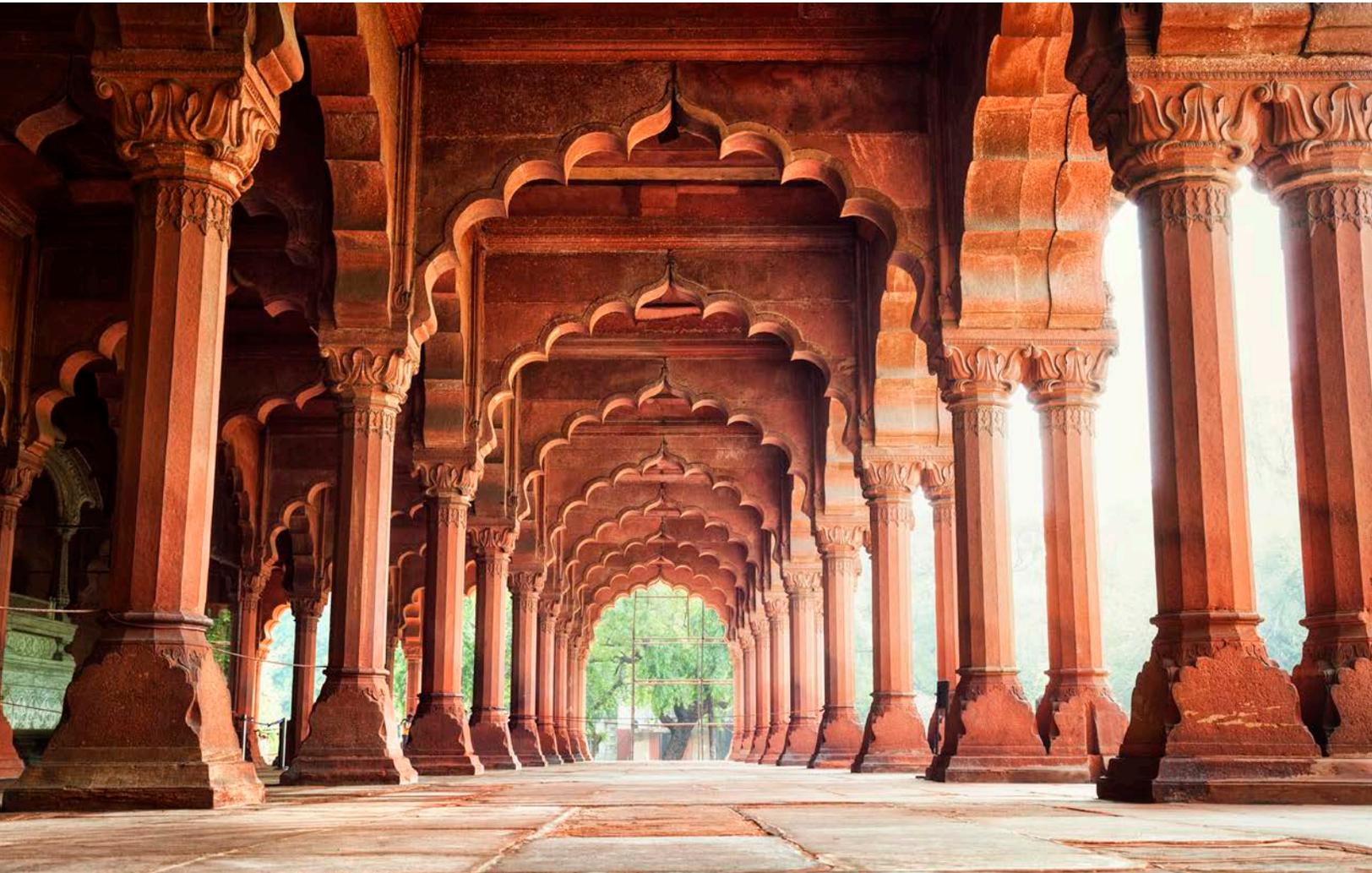


adventurewomen

THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

INDIA

Festival of Colors, Culture, & Palaces



March 15 - 23, 2019

INDIA

Festival of Colors, Culture, & Palaces

March 15 - 23, 2019

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Play Holi and become (temporarily) tie-dyed from head to toe! Celebrate the Festival of Colors in the charming city of Udaipur
- ▶ Explore the hustle and bustle of Delhi bazaars on a bicycle rickshaw
- ▶ Marvel at sunset AND sunrise at the Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the World
- ▶ Take in a show at the Amber fort followed by a special Rajasthani dinner at the Fort's exclusive restaurant
- ▶ Perfect the art of cooking an Indian dish in Jaipur

TRIP ROUTE



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QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

- Day 1: arrive in Delhi, dinner on your own
- Day 2: explore New and Old Delhi, welcome dinner
- Day 3: drive to Agra, visit the Red Fort, sunset at the Taj Mahal
- Day 4: sunrise at the Taj Mahal, drive to Jaipur, jewelry and textile markets
- Day 5: explore the Amber Fort, learn to cook Indian dishes, visit the City Palace
- Day 6: fly to Udaipur, explore local temples, meet women from a local cooperative
- Day 7: discover Udaipur, learn to tie a sari, meet an astrologer, witness Holika Dahan
- Day 8: play Holi with a local family, farewell dinner
- Day 9: morning shopping or relaxation, fly to Delhi, connect with your flight home

TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: \$4,990

Optional Single Accommodations: \$1,500

Internal Air: \$300

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your adventure in depth

DAY 1

Friday
3/15/19

Arrive in Delhi

Welcome to Delhi and India! An ancient city that has something for everyone, Delhi has been settled seven times over the centuries. The city has grown in a way that reflects its past while retaining its cosmopolitan flavor. It is India's showcase for architecture, religion, shopping, and culture.

Pick-up and Transfer

Your guide will greet you at the airport in Delhi and transfer you to your hotel.

Dinner on Your Own

Take this evening to relax after your long flights. Enjoy dinner on your own at a nearby restaurant or in the hotel. Rest up for tomorrow!

Accommodations

Taj Diplomatic Enclave

Meals Included

on your own

your adventure
in depth

DAY 2

Saturday
3/16/19

Accommodations
Taj Diplomatic Enclave
Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, dinner

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Delhi

Explore Delhi, capital and political hub of India. Delhi has been continuously inhabited since the 6th century BC, and has served as a capital of various kingdoms and empires. It has been captured, ransacked, and rebuilt several times, and modern Delhi is a group of a number of cities spread across the metropolitan region.

Tour of Delhi Explore New and Old Delhi today. Take in the sights, sounds, and smells of this busy city. Visit the Jama Mosque (wear pants and bring long sleeves!), one of the oldest and largest mosques in Asia. Explore the spice markets, where you'll have plenty of beautiful photo opportunities.

Take some time to soak in the view at Humayun's Tomb, built in the mid-16th century by the senior wife of the second Mughal emperor. This is the first significant example of Mughal architecture in India, and one of the most beautiful buildings in the city. The elements of its design are echoed in the Taj Mahal. The building is squat with high arched entrances topped by a bulbous dome and surrounded by formal gardens. Found at the gardens are the red-and-white sandstone and black-and-yellow marble tomb of Humayun's wife and, somewhat surprisingly, the tomb of Humayun's barber!

Lunch During your tour, savor a traditional Kashmiri lunch with your group.

Welcome Dinner This evening, enjoy an official welcome dinner at an outstanding local restaurant.

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DAY 3

Sunday
3/17/19

Accommodations

ITC Mughal

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

Delhi to Agra

The origins of the city of Agra can be traced back to the days of the Mahabharata, the epic poem of Great India when it was called Agrevana, meaning “the edge of the forest.” Agra served as capital for the Mughal Empire during the 16th and 17th centuries and flourished as a center of art, drawing inspiration from Persian, Islamic, Turkish, Byzantine and Indian styles. It has been immortalized ever since by the Taj Mahal – a magnificent marble mausoleum that epitomizes love, yet Agra has so many more monuments that tell a rich narrative of the tides and times of Man.

Drive to Agra Leave Delhi this morning for Agra. Arrive in time for lunch at your hotel.

Agra Fort The Red Fort of Agra was founded by Emperor Akbar in 1565 on the right bank of the Yamuna. The walls of Agra Fort are made of red sandstone and contain palaces, audience halls, and mosques. The palace is notable for its smooth blending of Hindu and central Asian architectural styles.

Visit the Taj Mahal Enjoy a sunset visit to the Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. This experience will take your breath away.

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DAY 4

Monday
3/18/19

Agra to Jaipur

Jaipur is known as the Pink City, a rather idealized description of the terra-cotta-colored lime plaster that coats the old part of the city's walls, buildings, and temples. The reasons for painting the town pink are unknown, but various theories, but the most popular reason is that pink is the traditional color of hospitality, and the city was freshly painted and paved with pink gravel to warmly welcome Edward VII for his visit in 1876. The city is painted pink once every 10 years by the Municipal Corporation.

Sunrise Visit to the Taj Mahal

Visit the Taj Mahal at sunrise, allowing you a glimpse of the monument with the changing backdrop of the morning sky, watching it go from a dull gray to a shimmering white as the sun rises.

Drive to Jaipur

Leave Agra and drive to Jaipur this morning. Enjoy lunch en route.

Visit Chand Baori

On the way to Jaipur, visit Chand Baori, one of the largest stepwells in the world. Enjoy the view as you look down on this cross between a coliseum and an M.C. Escher painting.

Textile and Jewelry Shopping

This evening, take some time to go shopping for the textiles and jewelry for which Jaipur is famous. Make sure you bargain!

Accommodations

ITC Rajputana

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 5

Tuesday
3/19/19

Accommodations

ITC Rajputana

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

Jaipur

The history and times of Jaipur are deeply entwined with the stories of royal princes and princesses, with grand Mughals and later with visiting dignitaries from the British Royal family or 20th century royalty like the U.S. Presidential families. Modern Jaipur plays host to all of them and to many thousands who come here, enchanted by all that the city has to offer. Jaipur is undoubtedly a city of kings and queens and its distinctive architecture clearly emphasizes this. Even so it has a timeless appeal, since many of the traditional crafts patronized by 18th century rulers are still thriving. There are streets that are famous for jewelry, tie-and-dye, pottery, “meenakari,” leatherwork, and stone carvings.

Amber Fort Visit the Amber Fort, an opulent four-level palace constructed of red sandstone and marble. Soak in the history of the palace and enjoy the stunning architectural photo opportunities.

Cooking Class Learn the secrets of Indian cooking from a local woman. Sit down together and enjoy lunch in her home!

City Palace Museum Visit the City Palace complex, the seat of the Maharajah of Jaipur, which consists of an impressive array of courtyards, gardens and buildings. Afterwards, a visit to the Jantar Mantar observatory, built in the early 1700s by Sawai Jai Singh II, Jaipur’s ruler and a keen astronomer, will showcase Central Asia’s rich legacy of astronomy. Its sixteen massive instruments are works of art in themselves and some can forecast the weather even today!

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DAY 6

Wednesday
3/20/19

Jaipur to Udaipur

Udaipur is known as the “City of Lakes” and was founded on the edge of Lake Pichola in 1553. It boasts historic forts and palaces, museums, and an opportunity to view the sunset from the lake!

Fly to Udaipur

Leave Jaipur this morning and fly to Udaipur.

Eklingji and Nagda

Explore Eklingji, a Hindu temple complex in active use near Udaipur. Contrast this to Nagda, where you will explore the remains of the temples dedicated to Vishnu.

Lunch

Enjoy a delicious lunch from high up on a hill. Enjoy the expansive views of the countryside.

Sadhna

If there is time this afternoon, visit Sadhna, which was established in 1988 to provide alternative incomes for women in Udaipur. Women learn patchwork, appliqué, and embroidery skills, enabling them to produce high-quality handicrafts.

Accommodations

Fatehgarh

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

your adventure
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DAY 7
Thursday
3/21/19

Accommodations
Fatehgarh

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch, snacks

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Udaipur

The City Palace in Udaipur was built over the course of nearly 400 years, with contributions from several rulers of the Mewar dynasty. It is the largest palace of its type in Rajasthan, and provides a panoramic view of Lake Pichola, the Lake Palace, Jag Mandir, the Jagdish Temple, and the Monsoon Palace.

Explore the City of Udaipur

Standing in a valley among green hills on the banks of the wide, blue Lake Pichola, Udaipur is a beautiful and charming city. Visit the City Palace, which boasts a conglomeration of buildings added by various Maharanas, yet somehow retains a surprising uniformity of design.

Prepare for This Evening

This afternoon, you'll prepare for this evening's festivities. Learn to tie a sari, meet with an astrologer, and get painted with henna!

Sunset Boat Cruise

Enjoy a sunset boat cruise on Lake Pichola. The views of the historic buildings surrounding the lake in the glow of the early evening light.

Holika Dahan Ceremony

Experience the Holika Dahan Ceremony at the City Palace this evening. The pyre is to symbolize the celebration of burning Holika, the devil. This celebration is done on the eve of the Holi Festival. Enjoy cocktails and a dinner of many different small snacks - you'll get to taste everything!

your adventure
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DAY 8

Friday
3/22/19

Accommodations

Fatehgarh

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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Udaipur

Holi, also known as the Festival of Colors, is a festival signifying the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring, and a day to play and laugh, forgive and forget, and just generally frolic.

Play Holi! You don't say celebrate Holi - you say PLAY Holi - so have fun! Enjoy the Holi Festival at a private home with an Indian family where you'll get to throw the colored powder on everyone to celebrate. (Pro tip: bring a waterproof case for your phone. Your phone will be safely inside the case, keeping the colored powder out, but allowing you to take photos!) Let go of your cares and see who can be the most colorful at the end of the day.

Farewell Dinner Enjoy a farewell dinner with your group. Toast the end of a fantastic adventure in India!

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DAY 9
Saturday
3/23/19

Accommodations
Day Room at
JW Marriot Aerocity
Meals Included
breakfast

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Depart India

Enjoy one last day in India before heading home.

Morning Options

This morning, you have some options. You can visit Sewa Mandir, a non-profit organization that educates disadvantaged children and women and children are offered health services. Alternatively, you can arrange a shopping tour to pick up some last-minute souvenirs. Or if you prefer, just relax at the hotel this morning!

Fly from Udaipur to Delhi

Fly from Udaipur to Delhi. You'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel where you can shower and repack before your long flights home.

Transfer to the Airport

Transfer to the Delhi airport for your flights home.

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

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Accommodation Details

- Taj Diplomatic Enclave** The luxurious Taj Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi, is spread out over six acres of lush gardens in the heart of India's capital city. It is an oasis of calm while still being right in the middle of the city's action.
- ITC Mughal** Sprawled over 35 acres of luxurious gardens, and in close proximity to the Taj Mahal, ITC Mughal, a luxury hotel in Agra is a fitting tribute to the great Mughal builders of the past. The ITC recreates a paradise for the contemporary Mogul- full of splendor and perfection which was the hallmark of the Mughal Dynasty.
- ITC Rajputana** Designed to echo the traditional havelis of the region, ITC Rajputana has a red brick exterior rising to different levels around a central area. Long corridors, secluded courtyards, and simplified lattice work recall Rajasthani architecture in a modern uncluttered and contemporary idiom and bring alive the spirit of Rajasthan and makes it distinguished amongst the hotels of Jaipur.
- Fatehgarh** Fatehgarh is a heritage structure that has been transplanted stone by stone, pillar by pillar to create this exceptional hotel. It celebrates the environmental, cultural, and spiritual heritage of the past. The hotel is perched on the edge of Udaipur city in the Aravalli ranges, with 360° commanding views, and welcomes guests with style and traditional fanfare.
- JW Marriot Aerocity** Located adjacent to Indira Gandhi International Airport, the JW Marriot Aerocity features large rooms with ultra-comfortable bedding and marble bathrooms, as well as 24-hour room service and modern technology. Choose from among several outstanding on-site restaurants or get a massage at the spa before your flights home.

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Included/Not Included

Included:

- ▶ Accommodations based on double occupancy
- ▶ Meals as noted in the itinerary
- ▶ All transportation throughout the trip
- ▶ All activities as listed in the itinerary
- ▶ Bottled water and soft drinks in the vehicle
- ▶ Baggage handling
- ▶ English-speaking guide throughout the trip
- ▶ One AdventureWomen Ambassador

Not Included:

- ▶ Round-trip airfare to India
- ▶ Domestic airfare
- ▶ Meals not specified in itinerary
- ▶ Camera/video fees at monuments
- ▶ Alcoholic beverages, unless otherwise specified
- ▶ Items of a personal nature
- ▶ Passport and visa fees
- ▶ Travel Insurance
- ▶ Gratuities

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Activity Level:

Moderate

Active

High Energy

Challenging

We rate this trip as Moderate. Our Moderate adventures exercise your mind more than your body and are designed for women who prefer a leisurely, less rigorous experience. For example, you could walk up to 2 miles per day through cities and villages, stand in museums for a few hours, relax on a boat, or view wildlife from a vehicle.

We recommend training before your trip (with your doctor's permission!) to make the most of your adventure. We have a partnership with FitForTrips, a company that will design an individualized fitness plan for you with this itinerary in mind. Best of all, AdventureWomen guests get a 25% discount with the code FITWOMEN. Learn more at: <https://fitfortrips.com/partners/adventure-women/>

You should come with a flexible, adventurous, and enthusiastic spirit, and a wonderful sense of humor that adventure travel requires.

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Once you book, you will need to fill out and return to AdventureWomen:

- Information Form
- Booking Conditions Form
- Copy of Flight Information
- Copy of Issuing Page of Passport (Photo Page)

Final payment is due to AdventureWomen in a cash form (check, money order, or wire transfer) on or before December 15, 2018.

Health Considerations:

Make an appointment with a travel clinic. There are no immunization requirements for travel to India, however your local travel clinic may have recommendations for you based on your age, health, and past vaccination history.

For more health information, go to www.cdc.gov/travel and navigate to the page about India.

Passports and Visas:

Citizens of the United States must have a passport valid for six months beyond your travel dates and a minimum of two blank facing pages. You must apply for an India visa. If you do not have a passport, please apply now!

You can apply for an e-visa no more than 30 days before departure at <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html> If you prefer to get your visa earlier, we recommend using a visa service such as www.traveldocs.com.

Money:

On this trip, US cash is accepted nearly everywhere. Make sure that your bills are less than 10 years old and have no marks or tears on them. You can also use ATMs in India to withdraw Rupees.

Suggestions for Gratuities:

- ▶ Main guide: \$7 per person per day
- ▶ Driver & Assistant: \$5 per person per day

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Arrive: Arrive at the Delhi Airport (DEL) after 10:00am on March 15, 2019.

Depart: Depart from the Delhi Airport (DEL) in the late evening on March 23, 2019.

We are happy to help you make your flight and travel arrangements. Please contact us at:

(800) 804-8686 or (617) 544-9393
email: info@adventurewomen.com

If you'd like to do anything prior to or following the AdventureWomen trip, we'd be delighted to help you arrange any trip extensions you're interested in.

Note: The recent trend in travel is for travelers to finalize their plans much closer to departure time than was customary in the past. While we try to be as flexible as possible booking last-minute registrants, we must release hotel rooms two to three months prior to departure! Please keep this in mind when making your travel plans.

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Your baggage allowance for your internal flights is 15kg (33lbs) for checked-in baggage, and 7kg (15lbs) for carry-on baggage.

As you get ready to pack for your adventure, have a look at The AdventureWomen Store at www.theadventurewomenstore.com - we have picked out our favorite travel clothes and outdoor gear to help make packing easy for you. You can also see our recommendations for this trip on the [AdventureWomen Pinterest](#) page.

March is generally pleasant and dry in India, with temperatures ranging from 68°F to 90°F.

Dress in India is casual and comfortable. It is not appropriate for women to wear shorts, and you should wear long sleeve shirts during excursions to temples and mosques. Carry a scarf to cover your head. Wear or carry a pair of socks, since shoes must be removed when entering certain religious buildings.

Clothing and Gear:

- Small suitcase or duffel bag
- Daypack
- 1 light-weight long-sleeved
- 2-3 short sleeve shirts (quick dry recommended)
- 2-3 long sleeve shirts (quick dry recommended)
- 1 medium weight fleece sweater/jacket (air-conditioning in India can be very cold)
- 1-2 pairs of pants
- 1-2 pairs of shorts (must cover knees)
- 1-2 sets of nicer clothes for dinner (skirts should be knee-length or longer)
- 1 bathing suit
- Waterproof jacket
- Hat for sun protection
- 5-7 pairs underwear

- 5-7 pairs of socks
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Sandals
- Scarf (for mosques)

AdventureWomen Essentials:

- Travel documents (identification documents, airline tickets, money)
- Write down/print out travel insurance number
- Locks for your suitcase/duffel bag
- Travel alarm clock with spare batteries
- Headlamp or small flashlight with spare batteries
- Binoculars (8x40/42 models are excellent choices; center focus models are easiest)
- Digital camera, memory cards, battery charger

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Essentials Continued:

- Sunglasses, case, and strap
- Spare glasses, contact lenses, cleaner, saline, etc.
- Money belt or neck pouch
- Your AdventureWomen insulated bottle (good for hot or cold drinks!)
- Sunscreen and lip balm with SPF
- Hand wipes/hand sanitizer
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Soap, shampoo, and conditioner
- Small packet of tissues
- Tampons and panty liners (avoid plastic applicators)
- Earplugs: We recommend Mack's Pillow Soft White Moldable Silicone Snore Proof Earplugs. Available at most drugstores or at www.earplugstore.com
- Assortment of stuff sacks and Ziploc bags
- 1-2 bandanas/Buff
- Reading material/journal and pens
- Waterproof phone case for the Holi Festival

Personal First Aid Kit:

- Prescription medicine you usually take
- Personal epi pen (if you need one, don't forget to pack it!)
- Bandages, Gauze, Ace bandage, blister prevention
- Antiseptic wipes/spray
- Antibiotic ointment
- Cotton-tipped applicators
- Oral rehydration tablets/packets
- Antidiarrheal medication
- Mild laxative
- Antacid
- Cold remedies
- Ibuprofen/acetaminophen
- Eye drops
- Tweezers, scissors (travel size), safety pins

If you prefer to buy a complete kit, we recommend the Smart Travel first aid kit.

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Cancellations and Refunds

Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date, and the registration deposit is non-refundable.

For cancellations received 61-90 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable. For cancellations received 1-60 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance to cover emergency situations. Travel insurance information will be sent to you once you have registered for your trip.

Switching Trips

If for some reason you need to switch to a different trip, please call us and we will do our best to accommodate you.

No Smoking Policy

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen vacations.

Health Insurance

You must have your own health insurance to participate in an AdventureWomen trip.

Adventure Travel Today

At AdventureWomen, we want everyone to understand that our excursions are adventure travel vacations and not "tours." We define "adventure travel" as travel in which one **actively participates**, as opposed to a "tour," in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes vacations all over the world for women who want to **experience an active, out of the ordinary vacation, and meet new friends**. Most of all, we want our trips to be **fun!**

good-natured realist and have a sense of humor! Adventure vacations, by nature, require that participants be self-sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. **Being on time** is important, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well-being of both individuals and the group!

In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a