

VISA INDIA – SIKKIM

You must have a machine-readable passport with at least 6 months validity for entry into India. All nationalities need to obtain a visa for entry into India. Note: A tourist visa for India is normally valid for multiple entry into the country from the date of issue until 6 months after the date of issue.

If you travel to India from Pakistan, Israel, Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Afghanistan or Somalia you will be required to hold a valid polio vaccination certificate. Please contact your nearest Indian Embassy or High Commission for further information.

NOTE: Although e-Tourist visas for India are now available to citizens of the UK, USA and many other European countries, they are not valid for tourists visiting restricted areas such as the sensitive border areas of Sikkim.

Filling out the application form

Where you are asked to state 'Places to be visited in India' please write 'Delhi'. Please do not mention any restricted areas such as Sikkim or Ladakh as this may result in delays to the issue of your visa. When completing the online application answer 'no' to the question about visiting Sikkim. **Note** that when applying online, most of the questions have 'required fields' (denoted by a red asterisk). This means that you will not be allowed to submit the form without filling in these fields. If the question is not applicable to you, please type 'NA' into these fields.

For 'Sponsor' use KE Adventure Travel; first UK referee use KE Adventure Travel; Second UK referee use a friend or relative. For the first Indian referee please use the name and address of our Ground Agent as listed on your Booking Confirmation. For 'address in India' and also for second referee in India, please use the name and address of the group hotel as listed on your Booking Confirmation.

Restricted Area Permit Form

For this trip, as well as an Indian Visa, you will also require a Restricted Area Permit, which our agents will apply for on your behalf. You must fill in, sign and return the Restricted Area Permit Application Forms sent with your booking confirmation. **Please fill in only your personal details on this form. Do not answer questions 10, 11, 12, 13, or 14. Our agent in Delhi will add route details etc. before making the application.** For question 7 (address in India) use your first night's hotel in your joining instructions which are part of your booking confirmation. If you have not received the address of your hotel, use the Indian Referee address in the visa application information above. You can scan the signed form and send this to us by email if you prefer. We also require two photocopies of the information pages of your passport, two copies of the page showing your Indian visa and a total of three passport photographs. Return these to us at least three weeks before the trek departure date. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of your place on the trek. Note that we DO NOT require your passports.

UK Passport Holders

The simplest way to apply for your India visa is to use the services of a Visa processing company such as Travcours <http://www.travcours.com> Otherwise, your application must be made online at in.vfsglobal.co.uk. Make sure your computer is connected to a printer as you will be required to print out the form once it is completed. At the end of the application process you will have the choice of making an appointment to submit your documents in person at your nearest India Visa Application Centre (IVAC), or by post. Note that submissions in person are by appointment only. Submission by your representative with an authorising letter from you is allowed. The process normally takes 3 – 5 days. Postal applications can only be made to the London IVAC and you should allow at least 3 weeks. There are IVACS in Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Belfast, Bristol, Bradford, Newcastle, Liverpool and Leicester. Please visit the IVAC website at in.vfsglobal.co.uk for further details and to make your online application. The current cost of an India Visa for UK passport holders is £82 plus a fee of £10.20 to VFS Global. **Note that there are strict requirements regarding the size and type of photograph to accompany the application. Please ensure you have read the photo specifications information on the VFS Global website.**

USA Passport Holders

India visas can be obtained by application to Cox & Kings Global Services Pvt. Limited, the authorized Service Provider for the Embassy of India and its Consulates across the USA. Note that US citizens can also apply for 5 year and 10 year visas (valid for a stay of 6 months on any visit and with no return within 2 months of a visit). Cox & Kings have offices in New York, Washington, Chicago, San Francisco, Atlanta and Houston. For application forms and further information please visit the Cox & Kings website at <http://www.in.ckgs.us/>

Other Passport Holders

Please contact the India Embassy or High Commission in your own country.

We do keep our information up to date but be advised visa requirements and charges are subject to change.