



**ORIENTATION PACKET
THE GANDHI LEGACY TOUR of India**

DECEMBER 29, 2016 – JANUARY 12, 2017

For last minute questions about logistics or anything else, please feel free to email to lbylund@gandhitour.info.

MEET & GREET SERVICE

A staff person from our Indian Travel provider – Travel Passion, will meet you at the airport. All your arrival information has been given to Travel Passion, so just look for the "The Gandhi Legacy Tour" sign at the airport arrival lobby that your driver will be holding up.

Just in case the contact info of the hotel in Mumbai:

Waterstones Hotel
Mumbai International Airport
Sahar, Mumbai 400 059, India

All the transfers will be arranged. We will need an electronic copy of your flight itinerary from the airlines or travel agency.

Your Tour Escort is Mr. Alok Tiwari and his contact number is +91-8988206952 or +91-9810137911 & on Dec 29: The group will meet by Dr. Arun Gandhi, Tushar Gandhi & Alok at 7:30 PM for buffet dinner at the Waterstones Hotel.

On Dec 30: Buffet Breakfast at the hotel from 7 to 8 AM.

Orientation meeting from 8 to 9 AM. After the orientation, the group will check out & leave for scheduled leg of tour.

INTRODUCING YOUR TRIP LEADERS

Arun Gandhi

Born in 1934 in Durban, South Africa, Arun Gandhi is the fifth grandson of India's late spiritual leader Mohandas Karamchand "Mahatma" Gandhi. In 1946, just before India gained independence from Britain, Arun's parents took him to live with his grandfather for eighteen months. At twenty-three, Arun returned to India, worked as a reporter for The Times of India, and cofounded India's Center for Social Unity, whose mission is to alleviate poverty and caste discrimination. Arun and his wife, Sunanda, came to the United States in 1987 and in 1991 founded the M. K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence in Memphis, Tennessee. In 2007, the Institute moved to Rochester, New York, and is currently located on the University of Rochester River Campus. Arun offered his resignation from the M.K. Gandhi Institute at the University of Rochester on January 17, 2008. In fall of 2008, Dr. Arun Gandhi returned to Salisbury

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University to co-teach another course: "The Global Impact of Gandhi." In March 2009, Arun founded the Gandhi Worldwide Education Institute – www.gandhiforchildren.org.

Tushar A. Gandhi

Born on 17th January 1960. Tushar 1996 was appointed President of the Lok Seva Trust, a voluntary organization working with factory workers and the economically weaker sections of Mumbai, in the field of education, legal aid, and healthcare. *In 1998 Tushar stood unsuccessfully for elections to the Lok Sabha (lower house of Parliament). In 2001, he was appointed president of Internet Users Community of India, Mumbai Chapter. Tushar was also invited to join the Advisory Committee on Cyber Crime to the Mumbai Police Cyber Crime Cell. He was appointed to a sub-committee of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti [National Museum] by the Prime Minister of India.*

Tushar is involved with the US based peace organization 'Seeds for Peace' which works with children. In August 2001 he was invited by an NGO "Peace Initiatives", to join a group of journalists and social activists to visit strife torn Kashmir, to interact with the leaders of the separatist 'Hurriyat Conference', the police and the Chief Minister of J&K with the aim to explore the possibility of achieving peace through development and economic programs.

Publications: Let's Kill Gandhi: A definitive study of the Hindu Fundamentalist plot to assassinate Gandhi.

In 2005 to mark the 75th Anniversary of the 1930 Salt March Tushar organized a 241-mile walk for Peace, Justice and Freedom. 600 marchers from India, Pakistan, the US, UK and other parts of the world participated. The Mahatma Gandhi Foundation was awarded in April, 2005, the 1st 'Mahatma Mahaveer Award' for promoting the ideals of Gandhi.

COSTS

What is included:

1. All transfers, sightseeing tour, land transportation & vehicle at disposal as per the program by Air-conditioned Large Bus.
2. Meeting Assistance services at all the airports & railway stations as per the program.
3. Services of Accompanying Tour Escort as per the program.
4. Services of local English speaking guides in Mumbai & Ahmedabad only.
5. Entrance Fees at all monuments & museums as per the program.
6. Meals (lunches & dinners) as specified in the above program. All group meals (breakfast/lunch/dinner), starting with dinner on December 29, 2016 till lunch on January 12th, 2017 are included.
7. Train and Bus Fares

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8. Please pack light so you can carry your bag up, if you need assistance, please inform your tour leaders who will arrange porters for you. The nominal cost for this service will be at your own expense.
9. All currently prevailing taxes on the hotels, transport and Govt. service tax.
10. Gratuity to drivers/guides/other support staff/restaurant is included in your tour price. However, if you feel that someone has done something special for you as individual or has gone out of the way to facilitate your travel, you may give extra.

What is not included:

1. Any additional expenses caused by or liability for disturbance in the trip due to circumstances beyond our control such as airline & railway delays, roadblocks, vehicle malfunctions (mechanical breakdown) and other conditions like sickness, natural disasters, wars etc.
2. Any services / meals other the ones specified in the Itinerary
3. Obtaining your passport and visa. India requires a Tourist Visa in order to enter the country.

CURRENCY AND HOW MUCH MONEY TO BRING

The currency of India is the Rupee, and the exchange rate to the US\$ is currently \$1 = 66.80 Indian Rupees ("INR") as of October 10, 2016.

The Indian money (rupee) is available in denominations of Re 1, Rs 2, Rs 5, Rs 10, Rs 20, Rs 50, Rs 100, Rs 500 and Rs 1000. One rupee consists of a hundred paise. Paise are in denominations of 10p, 25p and 50p. However, these paise are rarely used. Coins are available for Re1, Rs 2 and Rs 5. Where ever possible, check the currency notes carefully before you receive them from bank or an official money changer. Soiled or torn notes are not accepted for transaction in shops, hotels or other establishments.

Foreign currency can be exchanged at banks, airports (the worst rates), and through authorized exchange bureaus upon your arrival. Check with your bank about using your ATM card; ask about the cost of each withdrawal (usually only \$2), the amount limit on your card.

PHONE/MOBILE/CELL PHONE

It's easy to buy a SIM card for a GSM phone but please make sure that you buy it from an authorized vendor. You can buy it at airport after your arrival in India. You will need a copy of your passport (along with the visa page) and 2 passport size photographs. You will give your hotel address and contact

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number as local address. Make sure you fill and sign the form properly. We do not advise you to pay for a lot of minutes to begin with lest it should stop working for many reasons. You can recharge it easily as you travel from many small shops. Calls to USA would be charged roughly at INR 8 a minute. Local calls would vary between INR 1 and 1.50 per minute. For about INR 500 you can get about INR 250 worth talk time including SIM card.

Do not bring a calling card to India. It doesn't work here.

Look for phone booths with signs STD/ISD right outside your hotels. They would be very cheap to call home and operate generally till late night. You have to pay cash. Charges are about the same as GSM phones but ask before calling.

Air Quality

Due to air quality issues in Delhi, it is recommended that travelers keep sufficient stock of medicine for respiratory congestion. For those with chronic respiratory disorders, please come prepared for certain levels of smog and air pollution.

Preventative measures to avoid malaria:

We will be going through Dengue and Malaria zones almost on the whole trip so it should be emphasized that everyone carry sufficient quantity of suitable mosquito and bug repellent.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Contact info:

Sayed Sarfaraz – Travel Passion Inc.

Regd Office: 10/ 208 & 210, 2nd Floor, Sikka Complex,

Community Centre, Preet Vihar, Delhi - 110092

Office No. +91-11-32219279

Mobile Nos. +91-9811212458, 9910534021

US Embassy-New Delhi

Shanti Path, Chanakya Puri 110021;

Telephone: +91-11-2419-8000; fax +91-11-2419-8407

U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai (Bombay)

Lincoln House, 78 Bhulabhai Desai Road, 400026

Telephone: +91-22-2363-3611; fax +91-22-2363-0350

Time Zone: GMT/UTC +5.30

Dialing Code: +91

Electricity: 240 V /50Hz

Weights & measures: Metric

BAGGAGE

Travel as lightly as possible. Pack as “minimalist” as you can!!

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WHAT TO PACK

Check list (suggestions only):

- a. Extra passport-sized photos—4 or more
- b. Some form of identification other than your passport and all printed pages of your passport along with your visa.
- c. Notebook and pens—for taking notes at meetings or electronic recorded on your smart phones will do for those that are paperless.
- d. Possibly a digital recorder (bring all the batteries you need with you) for taping interviews. Again smart phones now have apps for this.
- e. Any medication you use, packaged in their original containers and/or with prescriptions
- f. Pepto Bismol and Kaopectate or other alternatives. Rehydration electrolytes and medication for tummy bugs. Probiotics, bentonite clay or activated charcoal.
- g. Flashlight and batteries
- h. Moist towelettes / Washcloth, thin plastic disposable gloves, travel Kleenex pack.
- i. A backpack, everyone travels with a backpack. You might want to pack some snacks handy during train and bus travel days.
- j. Earplugs (in case you are a light sleeper... and your roommate snores)
- k. Ladies, disposable urine bags for the train rides.

You will NOT need to bring a sleeping bag or any of that type of camping gear. You will not need to bring anything too formal.

PREPARATIONS

WEATHER:

Be sure to check the weather forecast before you pack! Be prepared for temperature deviation of about 8 degrees from normal.

CLOTHING:

Winters (October to February) in India are quite cold, especially North India. So, pack some woolen clothes with you. Also, pack some warm innerwear, especially if you are planning to roam around too

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much. Train and bus air conditioning can be quite strong sometimes with a constant draft so pack accordingly. In Mumbai, Kolhapur, and Ahmedabad it will be warm during the day and into the evening so lighter clothing requirements while in these regions.

Last but not the least, while visiting places of worship (temples, gurudwara or mausoleum), you should be fully clothed. Also, don't forget to remove your footwear before entering any religious place.

While sitting, please avoid pointing the sole of your feet/shoes toward someone. It is considered derogatory.

FOOD AND WATER

All international travel is exhausting, and getting used to new foods and water is hard on the body. In general, people don't drink tap water, with bottled water being the norm. The change in diet may sometimes cause a case of traveler's diarrhea. Fruit juices, soft drinks, preferably without caffeine, and salted crackers are advised. Avoid dairy products, and all beverages that contain water of questionable quality. Bottled water is readily available in all restaurants and stores, with or without carbonation. GLT provides you with 2-one litre bottles of water per person per day. On the other days or if you need additional water, you can buy it outside your hotel. We recommend using bottled water for rinsing your mouth and avoid taking water in to the mouth while in shower.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Please check the following web site to have the most details and updated information:

<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinationIndia.aspx>

For more information on travel inoculations and precautions, contact the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) traveler's hotline at 404-332-4559.

OTHER TIPS

Taking care of yourself is probably the best protection against getting sick. Part of this is getting enough rest. We hope that you get a reasonable amount of sleep before your trip so you do not get a tired start. And remember that you do not have to attend all planned events. The plans can change at the last minute so please keep your tour leaders informed about any events that you are not attending and keep in touch with the group/tour leaders/escort.

GROUP PROCESS

There are many advantages to traveling with a group. First of all, as a group you will have access to people and organizations that you would not have normally met on your own. Secondly, you will benefit from the questions/input of your fellow travelers, and have the opportunity to discuss issues with people from various backgrounds and experiences. Finally, upon your return home, you will have a network of people to communicate with, as they are the ones to have shared in this unique travel experience with you.

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Your words and actions will reflect on the group. Please remember that we are guests of the country; it is best to approach each new situation with an open mind.

For reasons of safety or for the interest of the group, there will also be times when the group leaders will advise against a particular action. Please respect their requests. We will try to have periodic group meetings and discussions throughout the trip to help process the experience.

PUNCTUALITY, FLEXIBILITY

On past trips people have wandered off to buy something or speak to someone, making the whole group wait for them. People were late in the morning, missed breakfast, then stated that they were hungry and needed to buy something mid-morning. Be at the meeting place on time, and if you are going somewhere, make sure that the group leader knows where you are.

Traveling to India will require a high degree of patience and flexibility on everyone's part. The itinerary is subject to change due to the busy schedules of persons we plan to meet, and transportation will be difficult due to the conditions of the roads. Thus, events may have an air of unpredictability and things may proceed in ways that you are not accustomed to. Please remember that all of this creates a logistical challenge for the organizers of this delegation.

We ask that you remember that some things are beyond our control. And please take to heart that we always do our very best to make sure that the tour runs smoothly and safely for you and all the other wonderful people and organizations that we work with on a regular basis. Also know we are experienced at thinking on our feet and resolving crisis with creativity.

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

The advice is based on the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism of the World Tourism Organization.

Travel and tourism should be planned and practiced as a means of individual and collective fulfillment. When practiced with an open mind, it is an irreplaceable factor of self-education, mutual tolerance and for learning about the legitimate differences between peoples and cultures and their diversity.

Everyone has a role to play creating responsible travel and tourism. Governments, business and communities must do all they can, but as a guest you can support this in many ways to make a difference:

1. Open your mind to other cultures and traditions – it will transform your experience, you will earn respect and be more readily welcomed by local people. Be tolerant and respect diversity – observe social and cultural traditions and practices.
2. Respect human rights. Exploitation in any form conflicts with the fundamental aims of tourism. The sexual exploitation of children is a crime punishable in the destination or at the offender's home country.

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3. Help preserve natural environments. Protect wildlife and habitats and do not purchase products made from endangered plants or animals.
4. Respect cultural resources. Activities should be conducted with respect for the artistic, archaeological and cultural heritage.
5. Your trip can contribute to economic and social development. Purchase local handicrafts and products to support the local economy using the principles of fair trade. Bargaining for goods should reflect an understanding of a fair wage.
6. Inform yourself about the destination's current health situation and access to emergency and consular services prior to departure and be assured that your health and personal security will not be compromised. Make sure that your specific requirements (diet, accessibility, medical care) can be fulfilled before you decide to travel this destination.
7. Learn as much as possible about your destination and take time to understand the customs, norms and traditions. Avoid behavior that could offend the local population.
8. Familiarize yourself with the laws so that you do not commit any act considered criminal by the law of the country visited. Refrain from all trafficking in illicit drugs, arms, antiques, protected species and products or substances that are dangerous or prohibited by national regulations.

Overcoming the "Ugly American" Syndrome

- No chit chatting in temples and coming up upon the temples.
- Become acquainted with local customs and respect them.
- Do not make promises to local people or to new friends that you cannot keep.

We have seen many cases where North Americans wanting to be generous have suggested to people that they might be able to send money or material aid upon their return home. But as they return to the United States, it is often difficult to follow through on promises. This can create disappointment and bad feelings on the part of our hosts. Thus, it is better not to make any monetary promises. Even when you do not make promises, expectations are often created by your presence. It is important to be clear about the relationship you want and can have with the groups and individuals you meet. Even if you do make a promise of aid and follow through on it, a shotgun approach of helping whoever you meet is not always the best answer. We especially discourage giving money or material aid to individuals.

- Remember that you are only one among many visitors; do not expect any special privileges.



- Do not take pictures of people without asking permission. Think about how you would react to strangers randomly taking pictures of you on the street or in your home. Pictures can be a valuable record of your trip and may be very useful in educational work in the future. However, make sure you respect people's wishes and ask before you take a picture.

TOURISM AND GIFT GIVING

One of the negative side effects of tourism is the creation of an economic state dependent on tourists. Giving money or gifts sporadically to individuals on the street does not help to solve their economic problems; it is often a short-term solution to a long-term problem. For example, in a case where you give a child on the street money or gum, you may then find yourself immediately surrounded by others asking for a similar thing. It is nearly impossible to fulfill each person's need. Also, if you do give money or gifts randomly, a cycle of dependency is created that can escalate into further economic inequalities and social problems like prostitution and thievery.

However, there are ways you can be helpful and supportive. We strongly encourage you to give donations to institutions and organizations, instead of individuals. The Gandhi Legacy Tour believes that these institutions will distribute things equally and to the areas most in need. If you are interested in giving money or gifts to a specific place, please speak to your trip leader. In cases where we visit daycare centers, hospitals, or schools, we may give donations directly to the directors.

The Gandhi Legacy Tour also makes organizational donations for each tour. Groups have also given gifts/tips to the people who helped to arrange our program, such as the drivers and area-specific tour guides. One suggestion is to give the gifts that you bring with you to your trip leader. The trip leader will distribute the gifts equally to each person at the end of the tour.

DEVELOP A LEARNING METHODOLOGY

You will be meeting with dozens of people on a variety of topics, and it may feel overwhelming and incomprehensible at times. To avoid this, it is important to develop a learning methodology. Some suggestions are the following:

- Read and study as much as possible beforehand.
- Develop a list of questions that you hope to answer through your experience. Add to and revise the list as you read and prepare. Compare this list with those of other trip participants.
- Develop clear and concise questions that address the interests of both the group and yourself for speakers with limited time.
- Analyze your questions with regard to style. Are they polemical? Sympathetic? Confrontational? Ask yourself what you are trying to learn and what you will do with the answers you get. (In the wide range of talks we will hear, you are bound to disagree with at least one.) Do not be disappointed if people rebuff one of your questions or fail to answer them to your satisfaction.

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List of hotels and contact Info:

1. **Waterstones Hotel, Mumbai (5 Star) from Dec 29 to 30, 2014 (1 night)**
<http://www.waterstoneshotel.com/>

Waterstones Hotel
Mumbai International Airport
Sahar, Mumbai 400 059, India
T: +91 22 40906633
F: +91 22 40906632

2. **Hotel Raysons Regency, Kolhapur (3 Star) from Dec 30 to Jan 01, 2015 (2 nights)**
<http://www.raysonsregency.com/>

New shahupuri, Near S.T. Stand,
Kolhapur 416001,
Maharashtra, India
+91-231-6681333,
+91-231-2655633
Reception: (888) 868-1333
admin@raysonsregency.com
reservation@raysonsregency.com

3. **Hotel Royal Orchid Central, Pune from Jan 01 to 02, 2017 (1 night)**
<http://www.royalorchidhotels.com/>

Royal Orchid Central
Marisoft Annexe, Kalyani Nagar,
Pune 411 014, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91-20-40003000
Fax: +91-20-40003111
Email: gm.rocpune@royalorchidhotels.com

4. **Kutch Safari Resort, Bhuj from Jan 03 to 04, 2017 (1 night)**
<http://www.kutchsafarihbuj.com/>

Near Rudramata Dam,
Khavada Road, Bhuj,
Gujarat 370001, India
Phone: +91 99252 38599

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5. **WH Mani Mansion, Ahmedabad from Jan 04 to 07, 2017 (3 nights)**
<http://www.welcomheritagehotels.in/hotel-overview/Mani-Mansion>

Vivek Anana

Phone: +91 9899724000

Guest Contact #: 800-102-2333

Email: res.ahmedabad@welcomheritagehotels.in

6. **Paradizzo Resort, Ajmer from Jan 07 to 09, 2017 (2 nights)**
<http://www.paradizzo.in/>

Opp. RTO Office

Jaipur Road, Ghooghra, Ajmer

Rajasthan 305001, India

Phone: +91 96100 02111

7. **Tiger Heaven Resort, Sariska from Jan 09 to 10, 2017 (1 night)**
<http://www.sariskatigerheaven.com/>

Navegaon Gate, Chimur

Maharashtra 442903, India

Phone: +91 98509 43322

8. **Holiday Inn Mayur Vihar, New Delhi from Jan 10 to 12, 2017 (2 nights)**

13A Mayur Vihar, District Center

New Delhi 110091, India

Phone: +91 11 41105555

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