



Pre Trip Information



Travel Documents

All foreign travelers to India must be in possession of a passport that is valid for at least six-months beyond completion of their trip. Citizens of all countries need a visa to visit India. There are no exceptions.

If your trip includes a visit to Nepal, Bhutan or Sri Lanka and requires you to return to India for your international flight home, you would have to apply for a double / multiple entry Indian visa.

While we will advise you of our current information regarding passports and visas, please be aware that it is the traveler's responsibility to obtain all correct documentation prior to arrival in India.

We also suggest that you keep color photocopies of your important documents for travel to India. Please keep them separate from the originals, in case the originals get misplaced.



Visa

Your visa application will require you to enter an address in India. Upon arrival in India, you will also be required to enter a local, India address into your arrival form. **Be sure to have the address below accessible upon arrival.**

ARRIVAL AND CUSTOMS INFORMATION

Please be advised that regulations at the New Delhi International Airport do not permit passengers to be met inside secured passenger areas (such as Immigration and Customs areas).

If your itinerary includes an escorted pick-up and drop from / to the New Delhi International Airport then The Himalayan Outback's representative will meet you in the arrivals lounge, after you have passed through the passenger areas and cleared customs.

In the event you have not been able to connect with a representative of The Himalayan Outback, please call **0 987 280 6359** from one of the telephones booths in the arrivals lounge. In the event you are dialing this number from an international cell-phone then dial **00 91 987 280 6359**.

ADDRESS

THE HIMALAYAN OUTBACK

#550, Sector 18 B

CHANDIGARH, 160 018,

INDIA

Or

THE HIMALAYAN OUTBACK

7 A, Mohini Road,

Dallanwalla

DEHRADUN, 248 001, INDIA



Baggage, Restrictions, Departure tax & Currency

BAGGAGE

Security at airports in India is very stringent and all hand-baggage is x-rayed and sometimes physically searched prior to boarding flights. Domestic airlines do not permit any dry cell batteries, sharp implements, liquids and inflammable items to be carried in cabin baggage. Therefore please ensure that camera batteries, scissors, razors etc. are packed in your checked baggage.

There are several different sets of baggage allowance regulations in effect for international and regional flights. Baggage allowance varies depending on type of aircraft and class service.

Any baggage in excess of airline limitations may be subject to excess baggage charges. **These charges are the responsibility of the traveler.**

Every piece of checked baggage should have the ability to be locked and contain identification (your name and address) both inside and outside. In addition, do not pack valuable items such as cameras and jewelry in checked baggage. While every precaution will be taken with your baggage we cannot be held responsible for any damaged, lost or stolen baggage or personal property and we strongly recommend the purchase of adequate baggage insurance by each traveler.

RESRICTIONS

The government of India prohibits the use of a satellite phone as well as hand-held radio communication devises/sets within India.

Please be intimated that for safety reasons we do not allow any firearms in our operational premises. This company policy / restriction are also applicable on arms like air-rifles / pistols, stun guns, large knives as well as any kind of fire- crackers.

DEPARTURE TAX INFORMATION

Indian departure taxes are usually included in the purchase price of international airline tickets. In the event the departure tax has not been included in the purchase price of your ticket, it must be paid at the airport prior to departure in local currency.

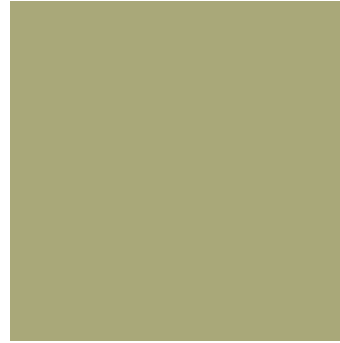
CURRENCY

Foreign currency of over US\$ 2,500 or equivalent being brought into the country must be declared at customs on arrival. **The Indian currency is called the "Rupee" and the coins are known as "Paisha." 100 Paisha = 1 Rupee. There are approximately 54 Rupees to 1 US\$.**

Coins are issued in denominations of 25 and 50 paisha as well as one, two and five rupees. Paper notes are issued in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 500 and 1000 Rupees.

Your currency exchange receipts must be saved as you may be asked to produce them upon your departure from India, or if you need to reconvert rupees into foreign currency upon departure. We suggest that money is only exchanged at authorized dealers, banks and hotel desks. Generally all cities, large and small, have facilities to change money. Please be aware that most game-parks and reserves do not have currency exchange facilities.

Major credit cards and traveler's cheques are generally accepted at all hotels and stores. All major cities and most small towns have ATM's.



+ The Region UTTARAKHAND

The north Indian state of Uttarakhand extends between 77 degrees 34' and 81 degrees 02' E longitude and 28 degrees 43' to 31 degrees 27' N latitude.

Uttarakhand is a region of outstanding natural beauty. Most of the northern parts of the state are covered by the high Himalayan ranges and glaciers, while the lower reaches are densely forested. The unique Himalayan ecosystem plays host to a large number of animals (including bharal, snow leopards, leopards and tigers), plants and rare herbs.

Two of India's mightiest rivers, the Ganga and the Yamuna take birth in the glaciers of Uttarakhand, and are fed by innumerable lakes, glacial melts and streams in the region. The topography of Uttarakhand is characterized by hilly terrain, rugged and rocky Mountains, deep valleys, high peaks, sharp streams and rivulets, rapid soil erosion, frequent landslides and widely scattered habitations.

Uttarakhand, the youngest state of the Republic of India; it became the 27th state on the 9th of November 2000. In January 2007 it was renamed Uttarakhand. The State is carved out of the northern part of the state of Uttar Pradesh. It is bounded by U.P. on the South, Nepal on the East, Himachal Pradesh on the west and China on the northeast.

The geographical area of the state is 53,483 sq.km. It ranks 18th in size and its share is 1.69% in the area of the country as a whole. Capital of Uttarakhand is Dehradun which is also the rail-head in the region. The capital is Dehradun and the High Court is situated in the city of Nainital.



Health Information

Please discuss health requirements for your travel itinerary with a qualified health professional, at least six-weeks prior to departure. We also recommended if you are not up-to-date with routine shots such as, measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria / pertussis / tetanus (DPT) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine, etc.

It is recommended that you take anti-malarial medication especially if visiting India during the months of July, August or September in Northern India, and November or December in Southern India. However, please consult your doctor regarding preferred drugs and dosage.

In addition to anti-malarial medication, personal protection measures such as wearing long sleeves and long pants should be taken to avoid mosquito bites, especially between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active. These measures include using an insect repellent containing 20% to 35% of the active ingredient "DEET".



It is also recommended that all international travelers ensure that their Tetanus, Hepatitis A and Polio vaccines are up-to-date.

Since health requirements can change at very short notice, it is important that you check with your physician for the most current information concerning your travel itinerary and personal health history.

It is also suggested that you carry a traveler's medical-kit appropriate to your destination, length of trip and general health. Your physician can advise you on specific items to include (such as remedies for minor stomach ailments, dehydration and motion sickness). You should include an adequate supply of any prescription medication you may require while travelling.

Incase of an emergency you will be evacuated to the closest medical facility that could take anywhere from one to two hours. Hence strongly recommend that helicopter evacuation be part of your medical insurance.

Be sure to travel with a copy of your health insurance and any medical evacuation coverage.

+ Check-list

- Sun-block
- Polarized glasses w/ retainers
- Camera, Back up Batteries
- Insect repellent and "anti itch" cream
- Flash Light / Headlamp
- Cargo Style Trousers
- Hat / Cap
- Quick Drying Shorts / swim wear
- Strap on Sandals
- Sun protection – Buff Headwear & sun-gloved w/ stripping guards. **ANGLERS**
- Waterproof jacket / wind cheater.
- Water Bottle / hydration pack
- Backpack / portable tackle storage system.
- Fleece outerwear.
- Ankle high boots
- Wading boots w/ gaiters. **ANGLERS**
- Wading staff **ANGLERS**
- Whistle **ANGLERS**
- Binoculars
- Multi tool
- Lanyard w/ nippers, disgorgers, floatant **ANGLERS**

ACCOMMODATION

At The Himalayan Outback, we take accommodation and comfort very seriously. Regardless of the itinerary you select, you can expect extraordinary service from our attentive and trained staff - careful baggage handling, tea and coffee service several times daily; food and drink available on the water, and prompt response to any reasonable request are the hallmark of our service.

CUISINE

Meals are served buffet-style under a canvas / thatch canopy. The menus are carefully crafted by our team of chefs to reflect several regional cuisines of India during the course of the week, as well as offer visiting anglers the familiar continental fare that may be most welcome at the end of the day.

Packed meals are provided while fishing and are served in much the same way.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The Himalayan Outback can procure alcoholic beverages of your choice. For this we need to be intimated in advance. You may also find that the brands of your choice may not be available to you. This is because The Himalayan Outback can only obtain alcoholic beverages available in the state we are operating in.

Guests are also welcome to bring their own alcohol from duty-free at the International airport.

WATER

Mineral water is provided on all our trips and is included in the price of our tour.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

If you have any health-related dietary requirements, please let us know. We will do our best to cater to your requirements.

GRATUITIES

Gratuities are a personal matter relating to the judgment of the services rendered. Gratuities are gratefully accepted and our best recommendation is to check with the trip-leader / senior manager before the end of your week for guidelines.

They will give you parameters so that you avoid over tipping or under tipping. There are between ten to fifteen staff on a single-trip. **Guests are requested not to tip the staff individually but collect their tips together, at the end of the trip, present the tip money to the trip-leader / senior manager who distributes it equally to all.**

Recommended tips are anywhere from 7 – 12 % of the price of the trip.

+ Experiencing India's Himalayan Outback

Culture ... the experience & the weather.



CULTURAL & EXPERIENTIAL ASPECTS

Even beyond the incredible life you will encounter in these mountain rivers, the watersheds you explore with the Himalayan Outback offer a unique window on the people and lifestyle of rural India. Some of the areas in which we operate are settled, and you will have the opportunity to interact with farmers and villagers as we pursue our quarry during the course of the day.

Some river sections, are extensively terraced, and the bells of plough oxen will echo from the hillsides as residents prepare for planting. At other spots, temples that have stood by the river for hundreds, or even thousands, of years will host a *puja*, or prayer service, as we pursue an evening session, skating dry flies from the opposite bank. As sunlight fades, the sound of temple bells, drums, and singing mix with the churning and gurgling of the water. More than once an angler has hooked a fish at this very auspicious moment! For many of our guests, the opportunity to see a part of India, where few tourists venture, is one of the most lasting impressions they take from a trip with us.

WEATHER

The spring fishing season that begins in the month of March may experience some showers as part of the winter rain phenomena, where in the minimum temperature may get as low as 8° Celsius (46° Fahrenheit) and the maximum temperatures may reach 35° Celsius (95° Fahrenheit). Onwards of March the temperatures gradually begin to increase and by the month of May one can expect maximum temperatures reach 40° Celsius (104° Fahrenheit). There are possibilities of thunder showers during this time of the year.

This valley gets a downstream breeze almost every morning, and by 1100 hrs it changes direction and comes up the valley. The evenings may also experience a downstream breeze.

The months of October and November experience some of the best weather - generally with clear blue skies.

+ Do's & Don'ts

Buy at genuine shops only. Bargaining is a popular practice in India and necessary too. Don't ever believe in lucrative offers of antique dealers in which they offer you to carry a parcel of some other buyer back home with your own margin described. Entire transaction should be legal and transparent so that you may claim later if dissatisfied.

Don't buy antiques more than 100 years old. Selling and buying "*Shahtoosh*" shawls is a crime. The same goes for ivory and wildlife.



Participating in a social occasion or visiting a home, monuments & places with religious significance requires conservative dress codes. Do not shake hands with ladies. Always pick up a thing and eat with your right hand. Take only as much as you can eat, do not leave anything uneaten over the dish.

Do not point your finger at any person. It is taken as a sign of annoyance.

While changing money, insist on getting encashment certificate.

Do not encourage beggars.

Do not leave your cash and valuables in your hotel rooms. Keep your cash divided in different pockets.

Take care of proper disposal of your rubbish.

Be careful of cultural and social sensitivities of the regions. There is no single rule for that, the best way is to observe and follow.

Take care of contamination of water and food problem. Always drink safe mineral water and take well-cooked food.

Don't eat anything offered by fellow travelers on train or road travels.

Do not visit places that encourage orthodoxy, social injustice and inhuman practices (like visiting a sati temple).

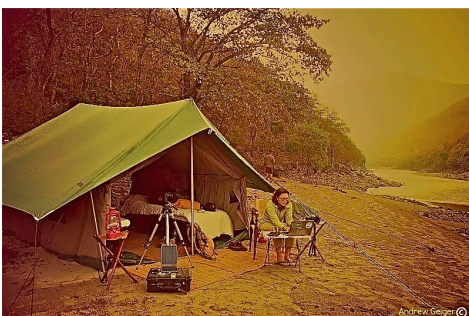
Don't photograph women without permission.

Don't accept offers of visiting anyone's home unless you are confident of the person.

Use licensed guides for sightseeing.

Always use strong suitcases/baggage, as mishandling is common at airports/stations.

Don't tip unreasonably and unnecessarily in a hotel. The NEWS soon spreads in the hotel and by the time you checkout there will be a group of them saluting you to expect something.





1. Two round pins.
2. Three round pins arranged in a triangle.

+ Electrical Sockets

Electricity in India is 240 Volts, alternating at 50 cycles per second. If you travel to India with a device that does not accept 240 Volts at 50 Hertz, you will need a voltage converter.

There are three main types of voltage converter. Resistor-network converters will usually be advertised as supporting something like 50-1600 Watts. They are light-weight and support high-wattage electrical appliances like hair dryers and irons. However, they can only be used for short periods of time and are not ideal for digital devices.

Transformers will have a much lower maximum Watt rating, usually 50 or 100. Transformers can often be used continuously and provide better electricity for low wattage appliances like battery chargers, radios, laptop computers, cameras, mp3 players and camcorders. However, they are heavy because they contain large iron rods and lots of copper wire.

Some companies sell combination converters that include both a resistor network and a transformer in the same package. This kind of converter will usually come with a switch that switches between the two modes. If you absolutely need both types of converter, then this is the type to buy.

If your appliances plug has a different shape, you may need a plug adapter.

Depending on how much you plan to travel in the future, it may be worthwhile to get a combination voltage converter and plug adapter.

We suggest that anglers should have spare batteries for their cameras, as it may not be possible to charge batteries in remote locations where there is no electricity for miles around!

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Catch & Release

Catch and release is mandatory in the operations of The Himalayan Outback!

Anglers should be careful in handling Mahseer. Your guide will handle the fish for you; however, if he is a little far from you please do not drag the Mahseer up onto the bank. In the event you do need to handle the fish please wet your hands before doing so. We also suggest that you do not inserting your figures into the gills of the fish or try holding it by the tail in an inverted position for any reason. This can damage the internal organs and kill the fish.

If you would like to photograph your fish, we prefer the guide to hold it briefly before slipping it back into the water. Often the delay involved in passing round the fish for a photo shoot can dramatically reduce its chance for survival. Barbless hooks, well sharpened, often catch more fish than barbed hook. They also make removing the hook much easier and much less traumatic to the fish.

CLOTHING

While traveling in India it is best to dress in layers, as even in winter the sun tends to be very hot. We advise that for fishing you have an assortment of quick drying outdoor trousers, which zip off to become shorts, and outdoor shirts with full sleeves. Waders are not needed on these rivers, as the water is 13°C to 17°C, though felt sole booties or wadding boots are highly recommended. It is essential to bring a pair stout pair of walking shoes or boots.

In camp it is very informal - we suggest that you pack a fleece and or waterproof jacket for the evenings. Sunglasses, a sun hat, sun block and mosquito repellent are recommended. If you wear prescription glasses or contact lenses, we recommend that you bring an extra pair of glasses as well as a copy of the prescription.

Should you be extending your stay after the fishing trip to visit other parts of the country please bear in mind that you should dress conservatively especially during the day while visiting temples or monuments (i.e. no short shorts or sleeveless shirts). We recommend that ladies pack a lightweight shawl to cover their shoulders, as appropriate, in places of worship.

While visiting mosques, temples and places of religious significance, you may be required to remove your shoes. Though some places provide overshoes, we suggest you always carry an extra pair of socks with you.

You should carry along an adequate supply of any prescription medication you may require while traveling. Prescription medicines should always be carried in your hand luggage, in the original, labeled containers.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS NEEDED

- Toilet kit
- A battery operated electric razor will probably be more comfortable and faster - otherwise please bring a conventional razor.
- A day-pack or gear bag. You will need a small waterproof bag to take equipment out with you each day, including camera gear, extra tackle, extra clothing items and snacks. This can double as a carry on luggage