

# Traveling To India - Preparations (I)

Arthur - Weppner Wedding

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009

We encourage you to help celebrate our union in the way that best suites you. We hope that some will use this as an excuse to explore beautiful India. If you decide to take this journey we will be happy to meet you at the airport, escort you around India, and invite you to some sight seeing after the wedding. We plan on writing a few guides on traveling to India, first preparations:

## Step 1: Preparations

Here is the general US government page on India:

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1139.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1139.html)

The page has a list of concerns for American travelers. India is a country in transition and so one must travel with caution but that said we think the benefits outweigh the risks, life is an adventure!

### [1] Getting a passport

United States Passport Page:

[http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first\\_830.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_830.html)

The passport book (you need a book, not a card) should take a maximum of four weeks, to get a passport you will need a variety of documents including a birth certificate, drivers license, application, and passport photos. You can go into any mall camera shop and ask them to take your photos for a passport (have them make at least 6 copies, you will need them again)

You then must take this down to a passport acceptance facility (these are located at town halls near you) and turn the application in with all your documents. To get your passport back should take a maximum of 4 weeks via registered mail. The cost is \$100

### [2] An Indian Visa

You then need to get an Indian Tourist Visa (which is outsourced, yes India also outsources!):

<https://indiavisa.travisaoutsourcing.com/guidelines?id=1>

You again need to fill out an application and you need to send your actual passport (the visa will be added to your passport), more passport photos, and proof of address. The cost is \$75. It should also be sent registered mail because it contains your passport, it should take no more than 3 weeks total by mail.

### [3] Health Requirements

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

It is best to get your Routine (see above web page for what is contained in routine), Hepatitis A, and Typhoid shots. These can be administered at a local government run vaccination center (I got them at a County Health Center). You should also, and this is the most important, get a prescription for anti-Malaria pills (I have taken Malarone and it is the recommended choice. You need to take it daily and before and after the trip). Avoid Lariam because it can have strange side effects. It is the monsoon season in India and many mosquitoes carry it, many Indian natives have had malaria at some point.

*In our next installment we will discuss transportation to, in and out of India, we will also discuss hotel options. In our third installment we will detail our travels around India after the wedding! - Cheers, Steve & Roxana*