

# rajasthan tiger challenge, q&a



## do I need a visa?

Yes; please see the India Fact File or the General Travel Advice in your Members area available 3 months before your challenge for more information.

## how big is the group?

Each group is intended to be a minimum of 16 people in order to run and a maximum of approximately 30 people due to the wilderness environment in which the challenge is taking place. We will be able to run this challenge for 10 to 15 people by charging a small group supplement of £75 which will be added to your final balance invoice (self funders) or charged to your charity (minimum sponsorship or flexi).

## who do we fly with?

You will be may be flying with from London Heathrow Airport to Delhi and returning from Delhi to London Heathrow Airport. The flight takes around 10 hours. Your flight tickets will be issued to you upon departure at the airport. If you choose to book your own flights you must confirm with the Charity Challenge office before paying otherwise you may be liable for your included group flights (please contact [flights@charitychallenge.com](mailto:flights@charitychallenge.com) for further assistance).

## what's the luggage allowance?

As no formal clothes are needed, luggage should be kept to the absolute minimum – details on what to pack are provided in your Kit List. Each day when you begin to ride, your personal kit will be transported to the next place of accommodation and will be waiting for you on arrival.

## what will the accommodation be like?

During the challenge sector you will be staying mainly in hotels and heritage accommodation. There is one night where you will be staying in a luxury tented camp. If you are travelling with a friend or partner who you wish to share with please let Charity Challenge know in advance.

## what are the toilet/washing facilities like?

You will be staying in hotels, guesthouses, or Maharaja's palaces with basic but good facilities. Your night at the luxury tented camp will also have en suite facilities.

## will my valuables be safe?

While we will do everything to provide adequate safety for the group and security for your possessions, the general rule is that if you don't need it, don't bring it. This includes jewellery, necklaces, rings and even watches. Your passport and money should be kept on you at all times - it is Indian law for foreigners to be in possession of their passport at all times and you may be asked to show it at road tolls.

## what is the food and drink like?

You will be served with a variety of European and Indian food. All meals are healthy, nourishing and incredibly tasty, and there is always plenty to satisfy a hungry appetite. Please let Charity Challenge know prior to

departure if you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies.

## who will be leading the group?

We employ a number of first aid qualified challenge leaders, all of whom speak English. They will be ultimately responsible for the running of the itinerary and the safety of your group.

## what is a typical day?

You will wake early (around sunrise) in time for a hearty breakfast. Cycling days will last between 4-8 hours including breaks & snacks. You will have a leisurely, longer break for lunch around noon - Packed or cooked lunch will be provided. We will head on at around 1-2 pm. You will arrive at your accommodation before sunset. Supper will be prepared and you can relax as the stars come out. Most of the bike trip is on tarmac roads (only a very little is on dirt roads). They are Indian tarmac roads, and so they do have potholes and can be bumpy, but generally the terrain is fairly easy. The ride is basically flat, with the exception of a few small hills.

## what type of bikes do we use?

The bikes are brand new, 18-gear Combat mountain bikes designed by Calvin. They are of standard triangle frame, have alloy cantilever brakes, alloy rims and imported nylon tyres. They are some of the most superior bikes available in India, however they probably do not compare to your bike at home. We add bar-ends to the bikes which can be removed if you prefer. We also add bells and water bottles holders. Please bring your own toe-clips and peddles if you prefer and we can add them. We take plenty of spares and our helpful mechanics are on hand at all times for repairs or adjustments. The maximum frame size available in India is 19-inch.

## how fit do I need to be?

Training and a good level of fitness are definitely required. Cycle for a full day at a time or even a whole weekend in order to build up your stamina. Anyone who leads an active and healthy lifestyle and cycles on a regular basis, with training, should find this a manageable challenge. The more you exercise before the challenge, the more you will get out of it. A 1 day cycle ride will test your stamina for the long days on the challenge. Don't forget that the climate is different to the UK and that you will be exercising constantly for a number of days in the heat and sunshine. You will only be expected to carry water & any essentials you would carry on a day ride, our support team will take care of the rest of your luggage. Also see the Fitness Training Advice notes.

## what happens if I fall ill, can't keep up or there is an emergency?

Back up support (a coach, truck or jeep) will never be far away and can be called in the event of an emergency. The challenge is not run as a race and there is always a large discrepancy in people's cycling abilities, which are catered for. There will always be a staff member at the back of the group to ensure you are not left behind and can take things at your own pace.

### what is included in the cost of the challenge?

The following items are included in your challenge: International flights to and from India, all meals and drinking water unless otherwise stated in the itinerary, all accommodation whether in tents or hotel, group first aid supplies, an English-speaking challenge leader, relevant back-up facilities, US\$20 donation to a local community project, a Charity Challenge T-Shirt and discount from Nomad Travel Stores for personal equipment. We also make a contribution through Climate Care to offset the equivalent CO2 emissions of your international flight.

### what is not included in the cost of the challenge?

The following items are not included in your challenge and will be at your own expense: tips for the local support team (approx. US\$50), activities not mentioned in the itinerary, personal spending money, visa (£30), travel to and from UK airports, and any required vaccinations.

### what shall I do about spending money?

You will not need large amounts of money during this trip as most things are included. Approximately £200-250 is recommended for gifts, souvenirs, alcohol & tipping. You are not able to buy Rupees before entering India. You are advised to take a sufficient amount of cash that you can change at the airport or in Delhi. NB: by changing at the airport while some of the group collect the luggage you will save time, the Indian Exchanges are the fastest.

### how much would you recommend for tips?

Tipping is personal and at your sole discretion. You should only tip if you feel that you have received good service. We recommend approx. US\$6 / £3.50 / 300Rs per person per challenge-day and this should be given to the challenge leader at the end of the challenge who will distribute it evenly among the team.

### should I take gifts or clothes for the locals?

Generally we advise against giving small gifts to children as it can encourage begging. However, if you have any small items or clothing, balloons, toys, pens, stickers that you would like to donate, your challenge leader can advise you on how to ensure they are distributed where they are most needed.

### what do you do to protect the environment?

We will ensure that all rubbish is disposed of responsibly (burnt, buried or carried out & food stuffs fed to the cows!) Batteries should be brought back to the UK. We follow the local guidelines on cultural and environmental protection and respect. Finally, we will donate US\$20 per person to a local children's community project, which you will be informed about after your challenge.

### can you recommend any literature about the region?

- *Kim* by Rudyard Kipling
- *Plain Tales from the Hills* by Rudyard Kipling
- *Passage to India* by EM Forster
- *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry
- *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie
- *A Suitable Boy* by Vikram Seth's
- India – Lonely Planet
- Rajasthan – Footprints

### english

Hello / Goodbye  
Please  
Thank you  
How are you?  
Excuse me  
What is your name?  
Do you speak English?

I don't understand

Yes

No

How much?

How far is...?

What is the time?

One

Two

Three

Four

Five

Six

Seven

Eight

Nine

Ten

### hindi

namaste  
meharbani  
shukriya  
Aap kaiseh hain?  
maaf kijiye  
Aapka shubh naam kya hai?  
Kya aap angrezi samajhte hain?  
meri samajh men nahin aaya haan  
nahin  
Kitneh paiseh?  
kitni duur hai?  
Kitneh bajeh hain?  
ek  
do  
tin  
char  
panch  
chhe  
saat  
aath  
nau  
das

NB: The information provided above was correct at the time of going to print.