



**BICHLI HAVELI PROJECT
UDAIPUR, INDIA**



VOLUNTEER INFORMATION PACK

BEAUTIFUL RAJASTHAN IN THE UNIQUELY RWI WAY

We're so glad you've chosen to join Restoration Works International in Udaipur, India to participate in this unique volunteer opportunity.

This pack is designed to help you with pre-trip preparations. Please read through the information thoroughly. It is meant to answer your questions and concerns so that you arrive at the project with all the items you will need for your comfort and safety.

For over two decades, RWI has been offering tour participants a remarkable cultural experience exploring the traditions and cultures of the world, with a special emphasis on hands-on service and meaningful relationship building in the communities in which we work.

Our capable tour leaders, small group sizes, and unattainable-experiences-on-your-own are RWI trip attributes that bring our volunteers back time and again. From your arrival to your departure, we take care of the details, so you can make the memories. Our 12-day trips allow you to travel slowly and really get to know the place and its people. And our emphasis on service means you're no typical tourist – you'll be giving back in a tangible way that directly benefits the community in which we work.

Please contact us if you would like further elaboration on any aspect of pre-trip planning and the restoration project. If you would like to speak with a past volunteer, let us know; we are happy to put you in contact with a recent trip participant. We look forward to welcoming you in India soon.



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INCLUDED IN THIS PACKET.....

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RESTORATION WORKS
INTERNATIONAL



VOLUNTEER CHECKLIST

VOLUNTEER CHECKLIST

- ☐ Review this info packet thoroughly
- ☐ Complete the [Participant Information Form](#) right away. It asks for:
 - ☐ A scan or photocopy of the photo page of your passport
 - ☐ Signed [Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims and Indemnity Agreement](#)
 - ☐ If you're under 18, a signed [Parental Consent Form](#)
- ☐ Book your travel to Udaipur, India (see page 16) and, if not submitted in the [Participant Information Form](#), email your full travel itinerary with airline, flight number and arrival/departure information to register@restorationworksinternational.org
- ☐ Secure your travel health insurance policy (see page 17) and, if not submitted in the [Participant Information Form](#), email the details to register@restorationworksinternational.org
- ☐ Apply for and receive your Indian Visa, if necessary (see pages 16-17)
- ☐ Visit your doctor or local travel clinic to receive any recommended immunizations and prescriptions (see pages 18-19)
- ☐ Review the Packing List (pages 11-14) and assemble all that is essential for your comfort for the duration of your volunteer experience
- ☐ Pay the balance of your trip fee at least 45 days before the trip begins (we'll send you a reminder)





BICHLI HAVELI PROJECT



BICHLI HAVELI PROJECT

The Bichli Haveli Project is restoring and rehabilitating a 140-year-old haveli (a traditional courtyard home) located in the old city of Udaipur, transforming it into a community and heritage resource center with revenue-generating accommodation to ensure its ongoing operation.

In addition to the restoration of the Bichli Haveli, the project aims to bring benefit to the community in which it is located by:

- » Establishing a community engagement program including alley greening, composting, graywater treatment and providing public meeting and play spaces
- » Training and employing Udaipur's migrant women laborers to create teams of skilled restoration specialists who can use these skills in the future
- » Providing economic benefit by hiring local staff and supporting local suppliers and services
- » Demonstrating to the larger community the viability of restoration as a tool of community renewal and improvement, and providing them with the resources to embark on similar initiatives.



The project is a partnership between the Mahim Mehta family, owners of the haveli, which is their ancestral home, and Restoration Works International, a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization that works with communities to conserve their built heritage, bringing volunteers to the site to work alongside the local community. We're also delighted to be working with local Udaipur nonprofit JanDaksha Trust who is supporting the project's crew of primarily women laborers who are being trained in restoration. JanDaksha's work focuses on the vulnerable migrant worker population and women's empowerment. The project is envisioned as a three-year effort, jointly funded by the Mehtas and Restoration Works.

The Region Where We Work

The beautiful city of Udaipur is in the southern region of the Indian state of Rajasthan and has been called "the most romantic spot on the continent of India." Surrounded by hills, the city's lake system, huge forts, fantastical palaces, narrow and colorful streets, and temples have granted Udaipur its reputation as a charming tourist destination for both domestic and foreign visitors. Udaipur moves at a relaxed pace compared to India's big cities.

Udaipur's economy is diverse, with contributions from tourism, agriculture, and mineral industries. The city is well known for its handicrafts (paintings, marble articles, silver arts, terracotta) and historic architecture. Much of the Udaipur cuisine is vegetarian because many residents practice Jainism and Vaishnavism. Mewari is the primary language, though Rajasthani, Hindi, and English are also spoken.

Founded in the mid-1500s, Udaipur became a British princely state in 1818 (Mewar Kingdom) and later part of Rajasthan when India gained independence in 1947. Today, the "City of Lakes" has a population of a bit over 400,000 people, and although its lavish architecture, setting, and rich history make it a popular tourist destination, there is a dramatic wealth disparity between those of means and those without. Most of the population does not have access to reliable infrastructure. RWI hopes that through completion of the haveli restoration, we will help the haveli's immediate neighborhood prosper.



ITINERARY



ITINERARY

Plan to arrive in Udaipur by the afternoon of Day 1 of the RWI tour. Private airport pickup in Udaipur is included in your program fee.

Day 1

On arrival at the Udaipur airport, you'll be picked up in a private vehicle for the approximate 45-minute drive into the city. (We can also arrange pickup from the bus and train stations). You'll be met at the guesthouse by the group leader who will help you get settled. Once the group is assembled, we'll have a welcome dinner at one of the city's many rooftop restaurants.

Days 2-11

On Day 2 we'll tour the Bichli Haveli and receive an orientation on the heritage of the city. On most mornings, we'll have breakfast together at the guesthouse and then walk to the project site where we'll begin work at 9 a.m.

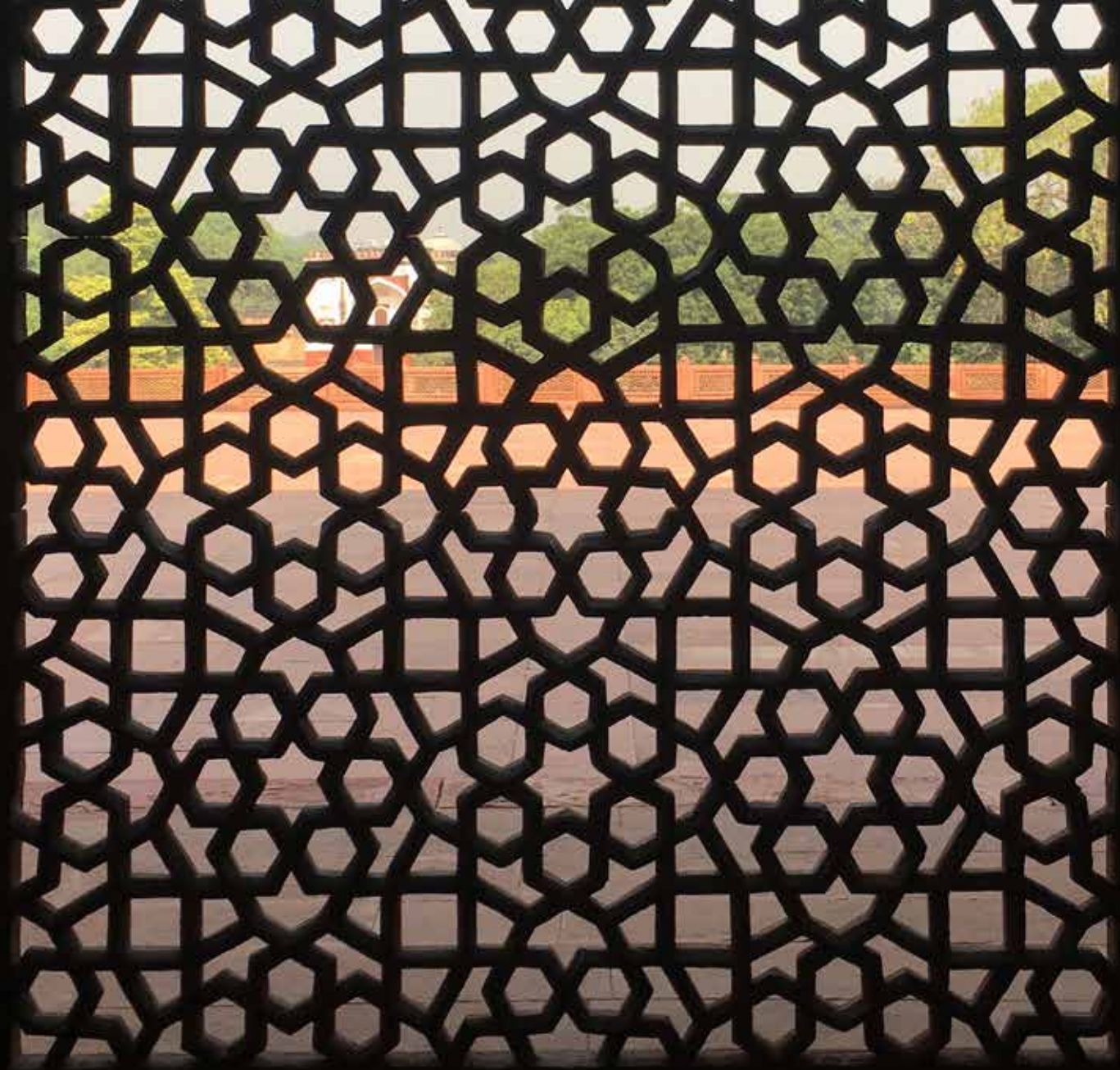
We will break every work day around 11 a.m. to have tea with the crew, work a bit more, and then have lunch on site around 1 p.m. After lunch, afternoons will be free for more work, rest, and sightseeing at the city's bazaars, palaces, and famous lakes. A couple cultural activities, such as a sunset boat ride on Lake Pichola and a dance and music show are included in your trip fee.

We will take a few days off throughout the tour for rest and fun. Many groups like to take a one-day or overnight trip further afield. Other groups have used days off to take a cooking class or visit a nearby textile factory operated by a women's cooperative. Participation is entirely up to you. We'll consider our options as a group once we've assembled (costs incurred for these extra activities are the volunteers' responsibilities).

On our last evening in Udaipur, we'll celebrate with a big dinner together as a farewell.

Day 12

The trip will officially end after breakfast on Day 12. You may depart beginning that morning or extend your stay to continue touring India at your leisure. Transfer to the airport is included in your program fee.



PACKING LIST

PACKING LIST

The packing list has been compiled from years of experience in the region and contains invaluable input from past participants. However, it should not be considered complete. Assess your own personal needs and tastes. If you're unable to acquire some of the items before your departure, you can purchase much of it in Udaipur.

LUGGAGE

- ✓ One medium-size suitcase or full-size backpack (max filled weight 15kg/33lb)
- ✓ One day pack that is large enough to hold a bottle of water and extra clothing

NOTE: Check-in luggage weight limits are lower on Indian domestic airlines than on international flights, so when packing for your trip, verify you're within the limits: 15kg/33lb maximum. Any costs incurred for weight above the 15kg/33lb will be your personal responsibility. Pack as minimally as possible and you'll be glad you did!

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Passport with at least 6 months of validity after your dates of travel
- ✓ Visa documents (see pages 16-17)
- ✓ Flight tickets
- ✓ Travel and medical insurance information with emergency contact telephone and policy number (see page 17)
- ✓ Photocopies of important documents like passport, credit card, and itinerary (also email a copy to yourself or save online)
- ✓ Trip itinerary along with key numbers and addresses
- ✓ Contact information for group leader and RWI contact in the US (will be provided pre-departure)

CLOTHING

Past volunteers suggest packing a "work uniform" (a couple sets of clothing you don't mind getting dirty or roughed up) and separate leisure clothes (nicer outfits better for touring and relaxing).

- ✓ Socks and underwear
- ✓ Long pants
- ✓ t-shirts, long-sleeve shirts
- ✓ light-weight scarf (can double as head covering for temples)
- ✓ solid working/walking shoes (Good quality footwear is required for your safety. You don't need steel-toed boots, but something more substantial than canvas shoes is appropriate for the work site).
- ✓ work gloves (cheap ones are fine and a few pairs are useful)
- ✓ disposable face masks for working in dust
- ✓ safety glasses
- ✓ bandanna
- ✓ sun hat—even if you don't normally wear one—wide-brimmed is best
- ✓ rain jacket
- ✓ sunglasses with UV protection
- ✓ sandals/flip-flops
- ✓ sleepwear

ACCESSORIES

- ✓ watch/alarm clock
- ✓ reusable water bottle
- ✓ small flashlight/head lamp
- ✓ universal adapter

PACKING LIST (CONT.)

TOILETRIES AND MEDICAL KIT

You should bring what you are accustomed to, in particular any prescriptions (such as malaria pills) and pain relief, stomach, and anti-nausea medication.

- ✓ broad-spectrum protection formulated sunscreen
- ✓ lip balm with SPF
- ✓ moisturizer/lotion
- ✓ tissue/toilet paper (not always provided in quantity and always good to have a small personal supply)
- ✓ biodegradable body soap
- ✓ toothbrush, toothpaste, floss
- ✓ compact mirror
- ✓ hair brush/comb
- ✓ biodegradable shampoo
- ✓ prescriptions
- ✓ nausea/upset stomach medication, motion sickness pills, antacid
- ✓ aspirin/Ibuprofen
- ✓ Emergen-C, Airbourne, etc.
- ✓ antibiotic ointment
- ✓ band aids
- ✓ bug spray/anti-itch cream
- ✓ anti-bacterial hand sanitizer
- ✓ nail brush, tweezers, nail clippers
- ✓ extra prescription glasses
- ✓ extra contact lenses and contact lens solution
- ✓ deodorant
- ✓ feminine hygiene products

Remember to bring your sunglasses, hat, work gloves and mask.

OPTIONAL

- ✓ towel (bath towels are provided at the guesthouse)
- ✓ sleep sheet/pillow case (your lodging will have a bottom sheet and top blanket, but you may be more comfortable sleeping between your own sheets)
- ✓ cellphone with international coverage and Whatsapp application
- ✓ camera (with charger, additional memory card)
- ✓ rechargeable batteries
- ✓ money belt
- ✓ sandals/flip-flops for bathroom/shower
- ✓ shaving razors
- ✓ earplugs and eye mask
- ✓ fleece, sweater, or light jacket
- ✓ duct tape – great for a variety of repairs to footwear, luggage, etc.
- ✓ photos from home (family, city, pets – helpful for making new friends and breaking language barriers)
- ✓ nutritional food bars, snacks, nuts, dried fruit
- ✓ sealable plastic bags to protect camera or phone from dust and water
- ✓ card game(s)
- ✓ reading material



PACKING LIST (CONT.)

DONATIONS

Many volunteers bring various items to leave behind for the staff and local community. We urge you not to distribute the items independently but rather to let your group leader organize this process.

Work clothes and equipment. Some volunteers donate their work clothes and equipment at the close of the trip. If you would like to leave things behind, please let us know. The group leader will collect items to be distributed to the community before we leave.

Work supplies. If you would like to bring additional work gloves, face masks, etc. for distribution among the local crew, they would be very appreciative. Sometimes a certain phase of the project requires hard-to-find basic supplies (plastic gloves, syringes, tissue paper). Please inquire before your trip and we may be able to inform you of additional items that you and the work crew would find helpful.

Clothing. Volunteers sometimes bring clothing for donation that they have collected from home (children and/or adult). Airlines often allow baggage of this type for no additional fee. Check your airline's policy if you plan to bring additional clothing for charitable distribution.

Miscellaneous. Some volunteers also bring small items that are distributed to the staff, including lip balm, nail polish, brushes/combs, and pencils and paper.



Nepali monks with a donation of backpacks at the Chhairo Gompa project. in Nepal.



INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO INDIA

आगमन
Arrivals



INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO INDIA

Plane Tickets

You are responsible for purchasing your flights to and from Udaipur, India. Contact your local travel agent, search online or check out [Fly For Good](#), our travel partner specializing in discount airfares for volunteer and humanitarian travel (we are listed under Restoration Works International). We can also recommend a San Francisco-based travel agent with much experience arranging US-based flights to the region.

Timing of Arrival and Departure

Arrive by the afternoon of the first day of your RWI trip date. Your departure back home should be no sooner than after breakfast on your final trip date with RWI.

Udaipur Airport Pick-up and Drop-off

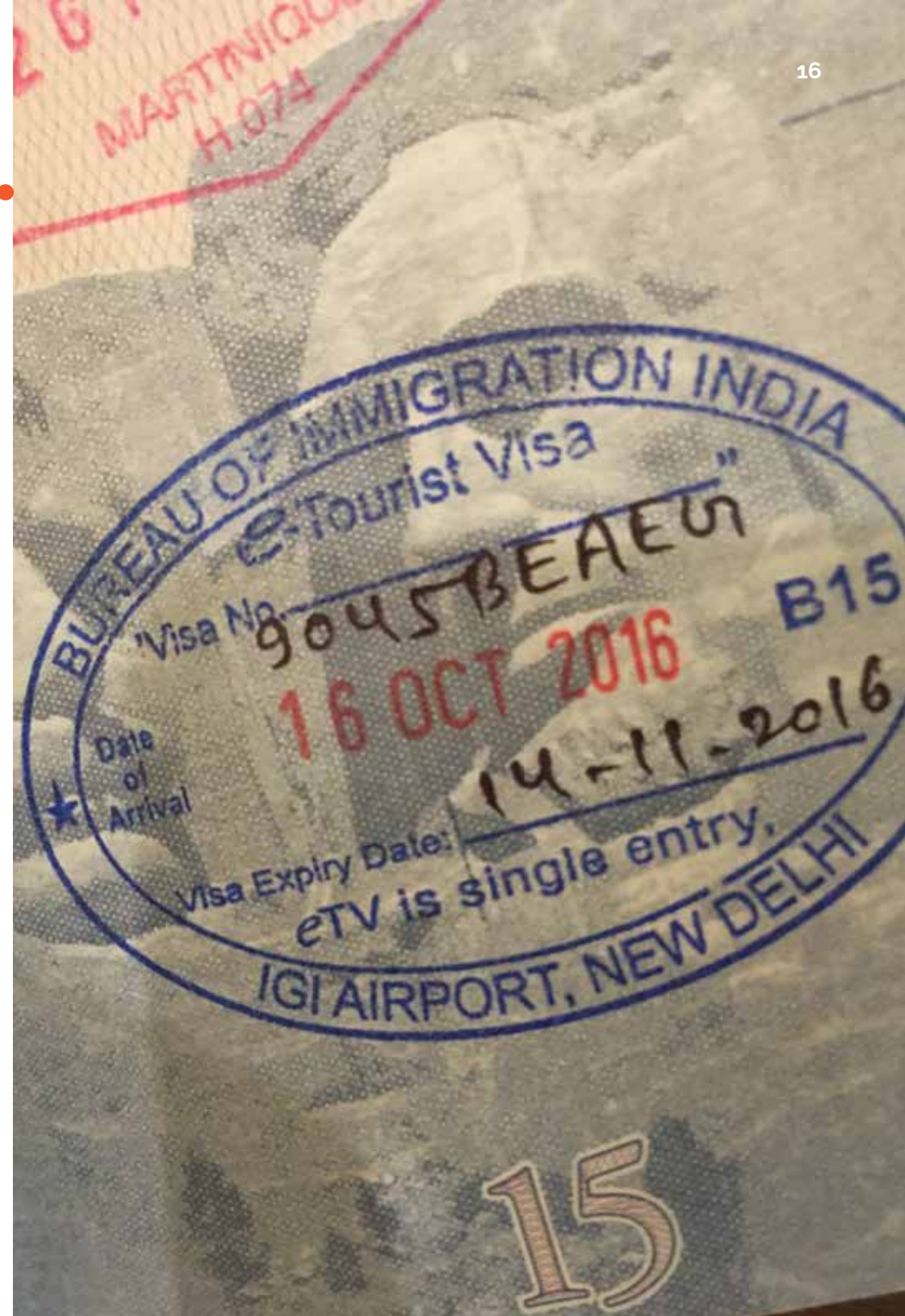
A private driver arranged by our guesthouse will meet you at Udaipur airport and accompany you to the group guesthouse by private vehicle. Look for someone holding a sign with your name on it or "RWI" as you exit the airport. Similarly, they will provide private transport to the airport on the day of your departure. These airport transfers are included in your fee.

Hotel Arrangements and Touring Before and After Trip

Many participants arrive a couple of days early or stay a couple of days after for a layover in Mumbai or to visit Agra and the famous Taj Mahal, and other cities in Rajasthan. You are responsible for your hotel arrangements before and after the trip; however, our in-country travel partner can help you arrange them. Our travel partner can also provide contacts for tour companies if you are interested in booking additional in-country travel before or after your RWI experience. Please let us know if you would like assistance.

Visas and Passports

Visas are required for all foreigners traveling in India, except citizens of Nepal, Bhutan, and Maldives. Please make sure your passport is valid for at



INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO INDIA (CONT.)

least six months from your date of entry into India.

For tourist stays for 60 days or less, most foreigners are eligible to apply for an Indian e-Visa here: <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/>. You can't apply for the e-Visa more than 120 days before or less than four days before arrival. For stays longer than 60 days, you need to get a tourist visa through your closest Indian Embassy (this can take more time).

You'll need to have the following items scanned and ready to upload:

- ✓ recent front facing photograph with white background (typical passport photo), exactly 350 x 350 pixels
- ✓ photo page of passport

On the first page of the application under "Visa Service", check "eTourist Visa" and then "Recreation/Sight-seeing." Complete all the required fields. List Udaipur as the city you'll be visiting on this trip (and others if you are traveling before or after your RWI trip). Use the name and contact information for the guesthouse in Udaipur as your Indian reference (Panorama Guest House, 47 Punch Davri Marg Out Side, Chand Pole, Hanuman Ghat, Udaipur, Rajasthan 313001). Complete payment before submitting. The price for US citizens is currently \$100.

You'll receive an email confirming receipt of your e-Visa application and should receive approval within 72 hours. It is essential that you then print the email and show at passport control on arrival in India.

Travel Health Insurance with Emergency Evacuation

RWI requires all participants to purchase travel health insurance that includes emergency evacuations. Organizations such as [International Volunteer Card](#) offer discounted insurance for those traveling for volunteer purposes. Please inquire if you would like other suggestions.

Trip Insurance

We recommend you consider trip insurance. Policies are inexpensive and



INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO INDIA (CONT.)



vary. Online companies offer inexpensive travel insurance; travel agencies sometimes offer packages with ticket purchase; some credit card plans have discounted insurance programs and banks often have plans. Look for one that includes reimbursement of cancellation fees in the event of trip cancellation or delay. No RWI volunteer has ever missed an international departure but it is possible that domestic airline delays or cancellations could affect your onward journey. Most policies also cover loss of baggage, and expenses related to accidents and illness.

Legal Matters

RWI requires all participants sign a [Release of Liability](#). All minors are required to be accompanied by an adult. Any participant 18 years or under must submit a [Parental Travel Consent](#) signed by their next of kin, even if accompanied by that person.

Vaccinations and Health Concerns

No specific vaccinations are required to enter India unless you have recently been in an area with Yellow Fever; however, we recommend that you have an up-to-date tetanus vaccine and review the recommendations from your government. Depending on the time of year, you may want to take anti-malaria medication. Visit your doctor or local travel clinic for specific guidance.

Below are recommendations about areas of potential concern from the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

(check for the most current recommendations here:

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/india>).

ROUTINE VACCINES —All travelers should be up-to-date on routine vaccines before every trip. These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TO INDIA (CONT.)

HEPATITIS A — CDC recommends this vaccine because you can get hepatitis A through contaminated food or water in India, regardless of where you are eating or staying.

TYPHOID — You can get typhoid through contaminated food or water in India. CDC recommends this vaccine for most travelers, especially if you are staying with friends or relatives, visiting smaller cities or rural areas, or if you are an adventurous eater.

HEPATITIS B —You can get hepatitis B through sexual contact, contaminated needles, and blood products, so CDC recommends this vaccine if you might have sex with a new partner, get a tattoo or piercing, or have any medical procedures.

MALARIA —Talk to your doctor about how to prevent malaria while traveling. You may need to take prescription medicine before, during, and after your trip to prevent malaria, especially if you are visiting low-altitude areas.

JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS —You may need this vaccine if your trip will last more than a month, depending on where you are going in India and what time of year you are traveling. You should also consider this vaccine if you plan to visit rural areas in India or will be spending a lot of time outdoors, even for trips shorter than a month. Your doctor can help you decide if this vaccine is right for you based on your travel plans.

RABIES — CDC recommends this vaccine for the following groups: Travelers involved in outdoor and other activities (such as camping, hiking, biking, adventure travel, and caving) that put them at risk for animal bites.

- » People who will be working with or around animals (such as veterinarians, wildlife professionals, and researchers).
- » People who are taking long trips or moving to India
- » Children, because they tend to play with animals, might not report

bites, and are more likely to have animal bites on their head and neck.

YELLOW FEVER — There is no risk of yellow fever in India. The government of India requires proof of yellow fever vaccination only if you are arriving from a country with risk of yellow fever.

*****Note: Zika is endemic in India, and we (CDC) believe the risk to travelers is low. Because of the risk of birth defects in babies born to women who were infected with Zika while pregnant, women who are pregnant or planning to become pregnant should discuss their travel plans with their doctor and, if they decide to travel to India, strictly follow steps to prevent mosquito bites.

Consult your doctor or travel clinic if you have any questions or concerns.

While traveling and on the site, drink plenty of bottled water. Wash your hands often. Brush your teeth with bottled water. If unsure of sanitation, avoid uncooked fruit and vegetables unless you prepare them. They are safest peeled.

Medical Facilities

Udaipur has high-quality medical facilities/hospitals should volunteers need serious and urgent medical attention. Your travel health insurance will take care of emergency evacuation if it is required.

Books and Recommended Material

We recommend you purchase an India guide book, preferably one published recently. Delhi, Mumbai, and Udaipur have bookshops where you can find English-language books on India as well as a variety of classic and recent fiction and non-fiction.

We also suggest the novel *Inside the Haveli* by Rama Mehta, which is set in a traditional Udaipur haveli like the Bichli Haveli. If you can't find it in your home country, copies are usually available in Udaipur bookstores.



TRAVEL WITHIN INDIA



India is 5 hours and 30 minutes ahead of GMT.

The telephone country code for India is 91; Delhi's city code is 11; Udaipur's city code is 91. When dialing local numbers, land lines have eight digits and must be preceded by the city code, and mobile phones have 10 digits. For international calls, dial the country code and number.

The area of Udaipur's old city where we will be working is most easily traversed by foot. Taxis are readily available in the major cities and Udaipur. Metro (in Delhi and Mumbai), buses, cycle-rickshaws, auto rickshaws, and urban trains are also common forms of transportation. Your hotel can also arrange transportation if you are venturing further outside the cities.

You'll likely arrive at a major Indian international airport and then transfer to an Indian domestic airline to reach Udaipur. Travel to the southern region of Rajasthan, where Udaipur is located, and back to Delhi or Mumbai involves a direct domestic flight that lasts approximately 1 hour 15 minutes.

All domestic Indian airlines allow check-in baggage of up to 15kg/33lb free of cost. If your international flights are ticketed on the same ticket as your international flight, you may have a higher baggage allowance. Check with your airline. Like flights everywhere, you are not permitted to carry on batteries, matches, lighters, sharp objects or liquids.

Indian airlines are held to the same safety requirements as those in North America, Europe, and other developed areas of the world. Airport security is stringent. Proof of boarding pass and ID is usually required to access the airport building, and only those with flights within a certain number of hours

TRAVEL WITHIN INDIA (CONT.)

may enter. Once inside, travelers are subject to a couple checks, including identification/boarding pass verification, sending their carry-on baggage through x-ray machines, and being wanded and patted down. Women and men line up in separate lines to be inspected by security officers of the same gender.

Delays due to weather are not unusual. You may find yourself spending extra hours at the airport, so it's a good idea to be prepared—bring reading material, playing cards, snacks, etc.

Safety

We recommend you take the same precautions that you would in any unfamiliar place: be aware of your surroundings and don't feel obligated to be polite if you think a situation doesn't seem right. Petty theft does occur and pickpockets thrive in crowded areas like markets and bus and train stations. Recently there have been some highly-publicized sexual attacks on female tourists in India; however, these incidents are rare. Be cautious but not fearful. Most female tourists report feeling very safe in Udaipur.

Fitness Level

The volunteer tasks and the various recreation activities do not require any special fitness level and are suitable for all ages; however, the haveli and guesthouse have many stairs (three stories and five stories, respectively). Many restaurants are on rooftops two to three stories up, and the Indian streets and walkways can be uneven. We will be doing a lot of walking.

Money/currency

The Indian currency is the rupee. ATMs and money changers are located at the airports before you exit the terminal. There are many ATMs in the major cities and Udaipur. Some banks will do cash advances on your credit card. Major credit cards (Visa and MasterCard) are generally accepted in the big cities and larger venues in Udaipur, but cash is king in smaller establishments. For the latest exchange rates, visit www.oanda.com.



Personal funds

Your personal expenses before and after the trip will vary depending on your taste in dining, accommodation, and shopping. It is possible to eat and sleep well very cheaply.

Once the RWI portion of your trip begins (afternoon of Day 1), all major expenses are covered by your trip fee. Snacks, alcohol, souvenirs, etc. are your responsibility, as is hired transport for recreation. You will find the cost of many of these items to be nominal, but if you plan to shop, snack and travel a lot, your expenses will add up.

Weather

Temperatures vary greatly depending on the time of year. Udaipur's average highs in late December/early January are 83°F (28°C) and lows are 54°F (12°C), so it can be quite warm during the day but chilly in the evenings and mornings. In spring and fall, temperatures can rise into the 90s°F (32-37°C) during the day with lows in the 70s°F (21-26°C) in the evenings. The guesthouse has air conditioning in the guest rooms, so you will sleep in comfort on hot nights. We take it slowly on hot days, working in the shade, stopping for frequent breaks, and drinking lots of water.

TRAVEL WITHIN INDIA (CONT.)



Clothing

Refer to the packing list section for more detailed information. Tourists often feel most comfortable in modest but lightweight attire that covers the legs, shoulders, and chest. Bring clothing that you don't mind getting dirty and roughed up on the project site and another set of clothing for leisure. India's big cities' and Udaipur's famous bazaars are full of inexpensive and beautiful clothing, scarves, shoes, and accessories should you forget anything or would like to round out your wardrobe with locally made goods and handicraft once you arrive. Past volunteers have enjoyed having custom clothing made by Udaipur's tailors.

Last-minute purchases

Upon arrival, if you have forgotten anything, you'll be able to find most anything. To be safe, wear or pack in your carry-on your walking shoes and an extra set of clothes. Although there are plentiful shops, it may be difficult to find the size you need quickly if your luggage is delayed.





LIFE ON THE PROJECT



LIFE ON THE PROJECT •••••

Volunteering

In Udaipur, the work day begins with group breakfast and then a walk from our lodging over a footbridge and through a bazaar to the restoration site or location of day's assignment. You will get to know your neighbors each day as you pass each other heading to work. As the days pass, your neighbors start to realize you are not a tourist passing through but you are staying in the community. At the beginning of the work day we have a short introduction to the day's tasks and maybe learn a few Hindi vocabulary words. After a couple hours, we break with the crew for a mid-morning tea break and snack. It's back to work until lunch midday. After lunch, participants may work or the rest of the afternoon is free until we will meet again for dinner.

Because of the unpredictability of the weather, we plan a mix of indoor and outdoor restoration tasks.

You may contribute in many ways, depending on your interests:

- » work alongside the local team of women laborers and craftspeople to complete hands-on construction work, such as demolition, excavation, clearing debris, lime grinding by hand, wall plastering with lime, terracing, and stone carving and laying
- » contribute toward service lane cleaning, participate in miniature painting, and assist with horticulture establishment
- » participate in the community engagement project development by interviewing neighbors, documenting the community with camera or video, and developing future initiatives (composting, activities for children, painting, etc).
- » help prepare meals for the volunteers and crew
- » participate in various object conservation tasks, such as sanding and repairing wood doors and cleaning and repairing historical furniture and artifacts



LIFE ON THE PROJECT (CONT.)



Future trips may include some of the work listed above or an entirely new roster of duties. Each season at the site will bring new goals to accomplish. And some surprises along the way. We may be able to give you a general idea beforehand of the type of work you'll be doing; however, it's subject to change based on weather, availability of materials, and schedules of master craftspeople. We try to rotate activities so that you're engaged in a variety of tasks in the time you're on site. We ask that you be flexible and patient—and speak out if there's something you'd like to do.

Accommodations

We stay at a tourist budget guesthouse in Udaipur's old city, about a ten-minute walk from the site. The rooms are simple but clean, with en suite bathrooms featuring western-style toilets and air conditioning. There is electricity and hot water. Each room has a bed(s) with mattress, pillow, bottom sheet, and blanket. However, for your personal comfort, you may want to bring a sleep sheet and pillowcase. Urban areas can be loud so pack ear plugs and an eye mask if you are a light sleeper. Toilet paper is available for free from the front desk. A thin bath towel is provided.

Electricity

Electricity in the region can be unreliable. We recommend you bring a flashlight and/or headlamp (also handy for working in dark rooms in the haveli). Rechargeable batteries and chargers eliminate undue waste.

Electricity is 220-240V/50 cycles. Appliances from the US (120V) will not be compatible. Plugs are both the two-prong circular type and the three-prong circular type. If it is necessary for you to charge your camera, phone, etc., we recommend you bring a universal adapter and/or converter.

LIFE ON THE PROJECT (CONT.)

Cell Coverage and Wi-Fi

Cell phone network coverage is good in urban areas of India, though mobile phones may have inconsistent coverage at times, especially outside of the urban cores. We recommend you purchase an international plan for your cellphone and download the Whatsapp app. Whatsapp is a messaging app that is commonly used in India and a good way to stay in touch with your group and friends and family back home during the trip. Free, passport-protected Wi-Fi is available at most hotels as well as cafes and restaurants, but the quality is not always good. Be prepared for slow and inconsistent Wi-Fi access.

Toilets

Toilets in areas that cater to tourists often have western-style toilets; however, when you venture out of the tourist corridors, you'll find most toilets are eastern-style squat latrines and toilet paper/tissue is not provided. Carry your own paper and some hand sanitizer for your comfort. Toilet paper is available for purchase from many small shops.

Drinking Water

Safe bottled water is available everywhere. Restoration Works will cover the cost. A personal water filter is not necessary, but some participants like to be fully self-sufficient and avoid the waste of buying plastic bottles of water. UV water purifiers are recommended, as they are portable and can be used in many circumstances. They are about USD100-130.

Meals and Food

Meals are eaten communally and are organized by RWI staff. We dine at the rooftop restaurant of our guesthouse for breakfast. A variety of options are available, including eggs, toast, omelets, potato pancakes, tea, and coffee, among other items. Most days, we'll take lunch at the haveli; it will be a filling traditional vegetarian meal, which most volunteers consider of the highlights of their trip. We'll have dinner at several different restaurants in Udaipur's



old city, all with amazing rooftop views, where your group leader will order a selection of dishes and sides to be shared family style.

The area is famous for its tempting cuisine that makes the most of the desert harvest with dishes that feature cereals, pulses (dried seeds like lentils), spices, milk products, and desert fruits. Meals are accompanied by a bountiful supply of roti/chapati (round unleavened bread), basmati rice, pickles, chutneys, and relishes. Food can be spicy, but you can request that it be milder.

Common beverages include masala chai, fresh-squeezed juices, jal jeera (cold drink made with lime juice, cumin, mint, and rock salt), and lassi (yogurt drink). Kingfisher is a popular Indian beer.

Locally, you will be able to find chips, candy bars, and baked goods at shops.

Be sure to tell us if you have any special requirements or allergies. Much of Indian food is vegetarian, so the non-meat eater is easily accommodated.

Laundry

In Udaipur, our guesthouse provides laundry service for a small fee. It is usually returned within 24 hours, ironed.

LIFE ON THE PROJECT (CONT.)

Recreation

Food, accommodation, and transportation costs incurred for recreation are generally at the volunteers' expense.

Your group leader will provide guidance and ensure that you're fully informed of available activities. Afternoons are free for personal time. Visit one of Udaipur's many historic sites, relax at the guesthouse, go for a walk or boat ride, hang out at a coffeehouse, or test your bargaining skills with the Udaipur shopkeepers. After dinner, the guesthouse rooftop is a comfortable place to visit with other volunteers, read, play cards, and watch the regular showing of *Octopussy*, the 1983 Bond movie filmed in Udaipur.

We generally set aside time for tours of some of Udaipur's sites as a group and offer opportunities for cultural interaction outside the work site. Past groups have taken the [Delaware Heritage and Community Walk](#), which includes a visit to Sadhna textile factory, jointly owned by 700 local women artisans. Others have taken cooking classes. In the past, volunteers have been invited to the evening puja at the Hindu temple just down from the haveli. We have also enjoyed kite-flying contests on the roof of the haveli.

Outings from Udaipur

Some of our groups enjoy taking a one-day or an overnight, two-day trip to somewhere further afield from Udaipur about halfway through our time on the site. Past volunteers have traveled to the fort of Kumbhalgarh to see the Mewar fortress and wall (second longest in the world) with a stop to see the famous Hindu temple complex at Eklingji. Food, accommodation and transportation costs incurred on these trips are at the volunteers' expense. The group leader will guide the group toward a trip that everyone will enjoy. You are not obligated to participate if you would rather spend your time off enjoying Udaipur.





CONTACT INFORMATION

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Should you have any difficulty when you arrive in India before your trip begins, please contact your group leader or the RWI US contact person, whose phone numbers will be provided to you pre-departure.

If you need to contact someone outside India while you are in Udaipur, you will likely be able to do this on your mobile phone. However, RWI can also deliver a message to the recipient on your behalf.

Similarly, if someone from your home needs to reach you urgently and is unable to get through on your phone, he or she can call RWI's US contact person. RWI will then get in touch with our group leader who will alert you.



TAX INFORMATION

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Restoration Works International (formerly Cultural Restoration Tourism Project) is a 501(c)3 public charity. Your tour fee is considered a donation and is tax deductible for American income tax filers. Additionally, travel to/from the site and expenses incurred (including lodging) may also be deductible. You will be issued a receipt stating the amount of your tour fee once it has been received. Keep this receipt and others for tax purposes and consult your tax advisor for further information.



SEE YOU
IN INDIA!