

# VISION TRIP TO NORTH INDIA!

This document will help you and your team prepare for an amazing, life-changing Vision Trip to experience the work of TellAsia Ministries in one of the most fruitful and challenging mission fields in the world – the Ganges River area of North India.



## PURPOSE OF YOUR TRIP

During your stay you will have opportunities to personally minister to needy children and young believers or indigenous leaders. The projects that TellAsia Ministries catalyzes, supports and manages are primarily led and carried out by the native people. This strategy which celebrates and promotes native ministry is the source of our exceptional efficiency and fruitfulness. Therefore visitors are encouraged to come with a servant heart.

You are about to experience the beauty and challenges of this land of 300 Million souls many of whom have never heard the Gospel. This is the “poisonous hub of sex trafficking in Asia,” home to 30 million destitute and orphaned children. Our hope is that you will catch the vision to stand with TellAsia in the following ways when you return to your home country:

1. **Prayer** – Commit to pray daily for TellAsia and the projects you experienced in India or mobilize a prayer group that will intercede for us.
2. **Finances** – Become a financial supporter of TellAsia in general, or of one of our projects that touched your heart while you were here.
3. **Networking** – Think about the people you know. Perhaps you know someone who would be interested in supporting TellAsia, or a business person who could connect us to funding for one of our projects.
4. **Other creative ideas** to assist and build up the native-led projects.
5. **Those with a heart for children** are encouraged to consider returning for a longer time period to assist in our children’s home, schools, and anti-trafficking initiatives.

We are deeply thankful for your interest in visiting us. TellAsia and the native leaders need you! We therefore request that you keep the above strategic purposes in mind and prayerfully allow the Lord to speak to your heart during your visit.

## GETTING YOUR VISA

You must get a visa in order to visit India. It may now be possible to obtain a visa upon arrival but this is a new development as of 2015 and we are not certain about the details. Therefore we recommend:

- Apply for your visa at least one month in advance of your proposed departure. The India visa company has been known to take a much longer time to process visas than the US company did which used to process them.
- Apply for a **TOURIST** visa. Though “Missionary visa” may be offered, do not apply for it, it is a trap.
- **DO NOT put anything on your application indicating that you are a pastor or Christian worker.** In regard to your visit to India you are a TOURIST. If the form asks for your “occupation” and you are a pastor, then we recommend putting “teacher” or any other job you may have held in the past.
- If asked for an address in India, put **Rivatas Hotel, Varanasi** (see below).

## TRAVEL AND HOTELS

### FLIGHTS AND TRAINS

We will work with you to plan your itinerary and travel to, within and from India. Typically trips are around 10 days including travel. This allows you to visit both our main ministry locations at Lucknow and Varanasi as well as, if you wish, the Taj Mahal.

**For your international ticket usually the best route is:**

- **If not visiting the Taj Mahal:**  
(Origin)-Delhi-Lucknow,  
returning Varanasi-Delhi-  
(Origin)
- **If visiting the Taj Mahal:**  
(Origin)-Delhi-Lucknow,  
returning Delhi-(Origin)

**Proposed Itinerary:**

- Arrive to Delhi
- Delhi-Lucknow
- Lucknow-Varanasi by train as there are no direct flights (we book this for you)
- Varanasi-Agra by train (we book this for you)
- Agra-Delhi by taxi (we arrange your this for you)
- Alternatively if not going to Agra, please book Varanasi-Delhi-International



Please book your flight itinerary at least 1 ½ months in advance of arrival which will give us time to book your train tickets. Trains fill up quickly and tickets must be purchased well in advance to ensure confirmed berths.

Please book your international flight through to Lucknow. Though you will still have to collect your checked bags in Delhi and recheck them on the domestic flight, this way you get the same baggage allowance as you did on the international flight and avoid excess baggage charges. If departing from Varanasi-Delhi-International, please also book this through for the same reason.

Please print a paper copy of your flights as the Indian airports require a printed paper ticket or E-ticket for entry.

## BOOKING YOUR HOTELS

If possible please book your hotels online according to the itinerary we will work out together. You get the same or better rate as we do over the counter. Lucknow and Varanasi are good-sized cities and it is most convenient for us to accommodate your team if you book the hotels which are local to our operations. Therefore please book one the following hotels in each city. Rooms are around \$80-120/double room and provide complimentary breakfast.

### Lucknow

- Golden Tulip - <http://www.goldentuliplucknow.com/en> \*\* PREFERRED \*\*
- Best Western - [www.bestwesternpluslevana.com](http://www.bestwesternpluslevana.com)

### Varanasi

- Rivatas - [www.rivatas.com](http://www.rivatas.com) – \*\*PREFERRED\*\*
- Radisson - [www.radisson.com/varanasi](http://www.radisson.com/varanasi) - includes fitness center
- Hotel Surya – [www.hotelsuryavns.com](http://www.hotelsuryavns.com) no fitness center, cheaper but may be a bit noisy, smaller simple rooms

## ARRIVAL AND PHONE NUMBERS

Upon arriving to Lucknow or Varanasi where we are scheduled to pick you up, **please do not leave the airport**. If you don't see us right away, just wait and we'll be there. If necessary you can use a payphone or borrow someone's mobile to phone us.

When making a call from an Indian phone dial 0 and then the number. When calling from an international line such as your cell phone's international calling plan, you will need to dial 0091 and then the number.

### Our numbers are:

- **Leanna, when in India: 0091-800-982-2559**
- **Lucknow:**
  - Gaurav, Office Manager: 0091- 993-628-4333
  - Alok, Regional Director: 0091- 0941-514-1469
  - Rajesh, Admin Asstnt: 0091-969-587-1419
- **Varanasi:**
  - Maneesh, Office Manager: 0091- 933-525-4458
  - Shivpal, Regional Director: 0091- 991-925-1111
  - Jitu, Admin Asstnt: 0091- 991-893-3796

## LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

For your daily travel around Lucknow and Varanasi we will book an air conditioned taxi(s) and provide you the bill at end of your time with us. You should budget \$60 per day for a taxi that comfortably seats five of your team members plus one of our team who serves as your guide or assistant. Taxis charge more when we drive long distances to the villages so a couple days of your taxi charges may be \$70-80 for the day.

## BEGGARS

You will encounter many beggars. It isn't necessary to give to them, however if you wish to then it's wise to give no more than a one or two rupee coin. If you give more than this, news is likely to spread quickly that a generous foreigner has arrived and others will gather, all clamoring for money. Money collected by child beggars often buys drugs and alcohol for a brothel owner or dysfunctional relative. The best option if you would like to give to beggars is to carry a bunch of bananas with you and give one instead of a coin. This provides much-needed nourishment and directly benefits the beggar.

## FINANCES

### CHANGING CASH, ATMS

Please plan to carry USD with you sufficient to cover your expenses except for hotel. Only the hotels accept credit cards whereas for most other expenses including restaurants, taxis and shopping you will need Indian cash. ATMs are readily available and accept most major debit cards. They dispense the equivalent of around \$165 at a time for a charge of around \$5. You can run your ATM card multiple times in a day however it is a good idea to inform your bank ahead of time that you're going to India, or they might freeze your card.

Upon arrival at Delhi, there is an ATM in the Delhi airport near the prepaid taxi stand (far left-hand side of the airport BEFORE you exit to the outdoors – if you're transiting directly to Lucknow you may not cross this location). Please get a few Indian rupees for pocket money through the ATM rather than using the money changers who charge high fees and give you a very low exchange rate. Only withdraw enough money to get to your destination. Once you are with us, we have agents who give you the very best rate possible for your cash.



Village women worshipping in a thatch-roof church

### BUDGETING

All the funds TellAsia takes in are utilized to support our operations and native-led ministries. Thus we are not a missionary sending agency, however we welcome teams to come and experience the amazing work being done by the native leaders, and to assist us in our core vision and purpose – to train, equip and mobilize native people to reach their own communities. Therefore teams that visit us are requested to cover all their team expenses.

A summary of your estimated per-person team expenses and the funds you should budget for your trip are as follows:

### ESTIMATED EXPENSES PER TEAM MEMBER

Airfare – may or may not include Delhi-Lucknow, Varanasi-Delhi etc	1500
Trains – Lucknow to Varanasi, Varanasi to Agra	60
Taxis - \$15/day x 10 days	150
Other transportation - minibus Agra to Delhi, rickshaws etc	100
Hotel - \$80 x 10 days /2 (double room)	400
Food - \$25/day x 10 days	250
Bottled water	30
Entrance fees for parks/museums	50
Other accommodation expenses (tips for hotel workers and servers, etc)	10
Misc - unforeseen expenses	100
Shopping (optional but recommended)	100
Leadership Training Conference (assuming 10 people on the team)	250
Administrative expense - includes enabling TellAsia's team leader to accompany and assist your team	250
<b>Total Estimated Expenses per Team Member</b>	<b>\$3,250</b>

We request that you budget sufficient funds so that you have a joyful and relaxed outreach without tension or lack.

### A FEW TIPS ON WHAT TO BRING

- Bathroom items – bring the basics. Toilet paper can be purchased but it's best to bring a roll unless you'd like to get stuck doing it "Indian style!"
- Travel adaptor US to Indian plug – available in the US at Radio Shack
- If you bring hair driers, electric shavers, curling irons and other 110-volt appliances, you will also need to bring a STEP-DOWN CONVERTER – also available at Radio Shack.
- Shampoo, conditioner, anti-bacterial soap, wet wipes, hand sanitizer etc. for personal hygiene.
- Any medicines you may use – aspirin, antacid, imodium, and laxative may come in handy.
- Mosquito repellent
- Any snack foods that you will want, as good quality or healthy snacks aren't readily available. Avoid chocolate as it tends to melt. No liquid food items.

## CLOTHING

**Women:** Modest jeans, slacks or capris are fine for casual and urban locations. Blouses: **no** sleeveless or too low necks. Bring one or two dresses or long skirts (well below the knee) and scarves to wear around your shoulders for visiting the villages. We'll take you shopping too and you'll have an opportunity to purchase the traditional Indian "Punjabi" dresses (very beautiful and unique).

**If coming in December-January:** Please bring a warm jacket and sweater. If wearing a dress, please bring leggings for added warmth or best to stick with slacks. Bring closed shoes such as sneakers.



Needy children learning to read and write in one of our rural education centers

**Men:** Anything except shorts and sleeveless shirts is fine. Some enjoy buying a traditional men's "Punjabi" to really jump into the Indian culture.

**If coming in December-January:** Please bring a warm jacket, sweater and closed shoes such as sneakers.

## MEDS AND VACCINATIONS

You should consult your doctor on this, but basic meds and vaccinations for a short-term trip to India are as follows:

1. Gamma Globulin (vaccination) - this protects you from Hepatitis A and B on a short-term basis
2. Typhoid (vaccination) - protects from Typhoid Fever
3. Lariam (pills) or the latest form of anti-Malaria medication.
4. Tetanus (vaccination)

## THINGS YOU CAN BRING FOR US

If you wish you can bring one or more of the below items that we need or enjoy. In India these are non-existent or of low quality. This is optional.

- New or used Laptops (in working condition)
- Backpacks (regular size, natural colors)
- Spiral-ring notebooks
- Good quality ballpoint or roller-ball pens
- Posters with Bible verses or inspirational sayings
- Coffee – ground, not beans or instant
- Snack foods – healthy
- Rechargeable flashlights
- Ipod or MP3 players
- Power bank capable of recharging cell phone, etc.
- Christian books (ones you know are good)
- Day planners
- Good quality clothes (new or used)
- Small toys for children



Boys taking a snooze near the family buffalo

## INTERACTION WITH THE INDIAN PEOPLE

### LANGUAGE

A fun and very effective way for you to show your love for the people whom you have come to serve is to learn a few phrases in the local language. If your outreach is to Bombay or anywhere North from there, Hindi is readily understood. Here is something to get you started!

(note “a” is pronounced “ah” , “aa” is pronounced “ay”)

- 1) **“DHANYAVAD!”** (DHAN'-YA-VAD) = Thank you
- 2) **“JAAY MASEEH KEE!”** (JAAY MA-SEEH' KEE) is a common greeting among North Indian Believers. It means “Praise the Lord!” and would be said as you shake hands with a fellow Believer.
- 3) **“NAMASTE”** (NA'-MA-STE) = common greeting among non-Believers. You can use this in greeting shopkeepers, etc.
- 4) **“MERA NAM (your name) HAI”** = My name is (your name).
- 5) **“KHANA BAHOT ACCHA HAI !”** (KHA'-NA BA-HOT' AC'-CHA HAI) = The food is very good!

### TERMS OF RESPECT:

It's nice, if you can remember, to address elder women as **“AUNTIE”** and elder men as **“UNCLE.”** Persons of your same approximate age may be addressed as **“BROTHER”** or **“SISTER”**.

### WHAT NOT TO SAY:

- 1) When in public or in the presence of any person not personally known to be a solid Believer, avoid saying the words “conversion,” “baptism,” “missionary”, “evangelism”, “church planting”, “preaching”, etc. You should appear to be a tourist whenever in public.
- 2) If a non-Christian asks you why you are in India, just say you're a TOURIST. If anyone asks you questions about what you are doing, you are here to see India. If someone unknown to you asks anything about the Indians you are with, they are your TOUR GUIDES.

### WHAT YOU CAN SAY:

- 1) When you need to talk about the ministry in public, refer to the evangelism, churches, etc as “the work” and to the evangelists as “the workers”. All our English-speaking staff will understand that.
- 2) If the Lord leads you to speak one-on-one with a non-Believer and you have the opportunity to share your faith, tell him that you are a follower of the Lord Jesus (avoid the term “Christian” if possible, as this term is often offensive to a Hindu) Tell them what Jesus has done in your life. Be exuberant! Tell your testimony! Then, direct them to converse further with one of our national staff, or take their address so we can follow up later.

## **DO NOT GIVE ANYONE YOUR HOME ADDRESS**

You may be approached by Indians who want you to give them your address so they can write to you. Please do not give your address. In most cases, the only reason an Indian wants your address is so that he can try to get you to send him money. This includes Christians.

## **DO NOT DIRECTLY GIVE MONEY TO THE BELIEVERS**

If an Indian leader shares with you a need that you feel is legitimate and should be met, please come to Leanna or to our native leader, and ask us about it, rather than simply giving him money on the spot. If the need is legitimate we will make every effort to see that it is filled, or will provide the proper atmosphere in which you can have the joy of giving them the appropriate amount of money to meet the need.



In a futile search for meaning and hope, millions worship the Ganges River

## GREETINGS AND SHOWING AFFECTION

- 1) Don't be alarmed if you see two boys or men walking down the street with their arms around each other. In India this is a common form of brotherly affection and they are simply showing their friendship.
- 2) When you greet the same sex, especially among believers, it is wonderful if you feel led to give them a big hug. Usually the opposite sex doesn't hug but within our close circle of leaders, hugs are universally well received.
- 3) When greeting a stranger or a non-Christian, it is best to do the traditional Indian greeting - place your hands together in a "prayer" gesture and say "Namaste." Shaking hands is also common.

## TIPPING

It is not necessary to tip the hotel attendant who assists with your luggage until the end of your stay. At that time you can give a tip to the main guy who helped you. A couple hundred Rupees (about \$3.50) is all that is necessary, though more is acceptable if you wish.

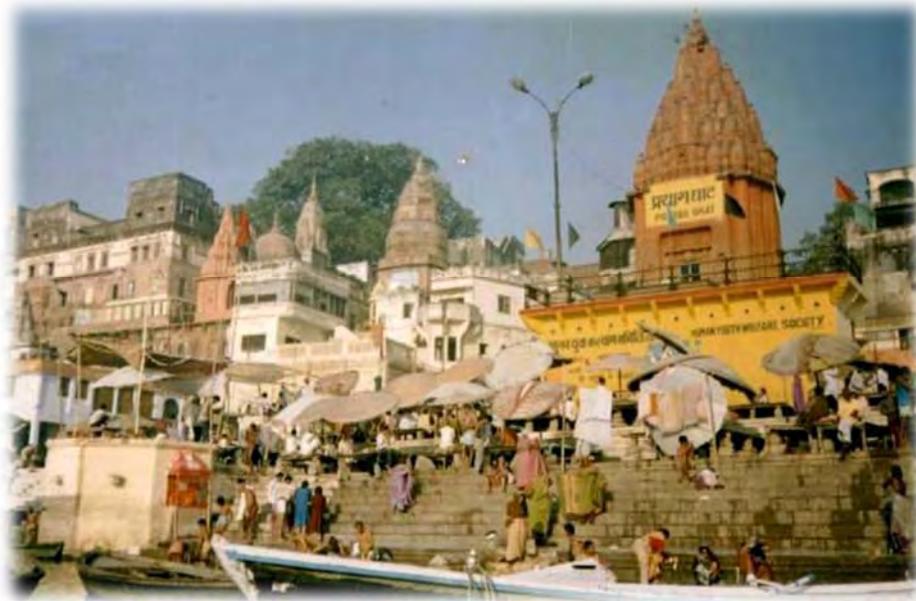
Tipping at restaurants is not done on a 15% basis like in the US. Rs 100 (\$2 approx) is sufficient when your team eats a meal together, or if dinner at a fancy restaurant Rs 200.

## FOOD AND ETIQUETTE

If you have the opportunity to visit an Indian home especially in the village, you should remove your shoes before entering. Also, you may sometimes be in a traditional setting in which there is no furniture so everyone sits the floor. Sit cross-legged rather than stretching your feet out in front of you, as it's sometimes seen as disrespectful to point the soles of your feet toward a person who may be sitting opposite. If you are physically unable to sit cross-legged, let someone know and some kind of seat can be provided.

Indian people love to entertain. Eat whatever is set before you. If you are concerned that the food you have been served is something that can make you sick, ask one of our

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English-speaking members should keep water with all times, but are served is safe because it's well boiled.

### The bank of the Ganges River at Varanasi

Typically Indians don't use silverware. They may offer it to you, and it is acceptable for you to use it. However if they don't offer it, do your best to eat with your hand, like they do. Avoid touching food with your left hand (for reasons you will soon discover!) The Indians will be thrilled if you attempt to eat with your (right) hand.

If you are visiting a home and are offered tea, it is best to accept as by doing so you're respecting the family. However if you're eating a meal and are encouraged to take more food than you can eat, it is acceptable to politely decline and accept only what you can eat. **Please do not take more food than you can eat and do your best to clean your plate. To throw away food is a disgrace in India.** We usually keep the spices to a minimum and most of our visitors go home having gained weight, but bring some Pepto-Bismol just in case!

## MINISTRY AND SHARING THE GOSPEL

### PREPARE FOR SPIRITUAL CONQUEST

When Leanna received God's calling to launch the work in North India, He gave her Joshua 1:3; "Wherever the sole of your foot shall tread, I have given you the land." Thus part of your vision trip will include doing intercessory prayer in one of the spiritually darkest places in the world. When believers "tread" in the name of Christ as His representatives calling out to Him for mercy and salvation to come to this land, things happen!

Occupying the land against ancient principalities is real warfare. Therefore be accountable one to another to ensure that no one has any "doorways" of sin in their life. If possible, meet together several times before your departure to India, pray together, and prepare yourselves spiritually. This way you will be a strong and united team.

### WHAT TO TEACH

TellAsia is a full Gospel organization and we believe God does it all, including healing, miracles and prophecy. Thus we welcome all sound doctrine and Christ-glorifying manifestations of the Holy Spirit. We encourage the teaching of Biblical truths such as what it means to be a disciple, necessity of sanctification, honesty and transparency in business and ministry, reality of eternal judgment and why Jesus alone can save, power of prayer, our authority in Christ, every believer should and can be an evangelist, biblical family and marriage relationships, financial planning and management, etc. We welcome the demonstration of the prophetic gift when it is brought out in humility, gentleness and in a way that glorifies Jesus and not man. If you have a prophetic word please preface it with "I feel the Lord is saying..."



Pastors

crying out for God to send a mighty move of His Spirit  
in their villages

## WHAT NOT TO TEACH

TellAsia is an interdenominational ministry. Leaders we train are from various backgrounds and we interface with many denominations. We value unity in celebration of the core Gospel truth over holding onto our personal theological preferences. Therefore we request visiting teams to avoid any narrow doctrinal issues or controversial activities. Topics and activities from which we request you to refrain include:

- Saying negative things about the Hindu religion
- Time of rapture
- Differing views on the Trinity
- Encouraging people to receive the baptism of the Spirit by posing tongues as the sole or primary evidence or by asking them to start forming incoherent words.
- Pushing or any hint of pressure on the forehead or temples suggesting that the person should fall down, blowing, convulsing or any type of emotionalism or hype.
- Speaking a great deal of tongues over the microphone while preaching or praying.
- Prosperity doctrine messages which financial blessing or acquisition of wealth is a focus.

If ever in doubt as to whether something you would like to share ministry style you like to use is appropriate, please ask Leanna or of our leaders and they will be more happy to discuss it with you and to through the best way for you to share your message.



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## WHY NO EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS

As a general rule, outsiders should not do evangelistic meetings in North India because it arouses excessive persecution on our national workers from local anti-Christian groups. We must train and equip the nationals and enable them to do the evangelistic meetings.

## VILLAGERS AND UNEDUCATED:

We will let you know whether your audience is uneducated villagers or leadership-level people. When sharing with village or uneducated people, minister as if they were children of 6-8 years of age. Intellectual, four-point sermons will bore them. Instead, use stories, parables, and real-life testimonies. Dramatize your message as much as possible, and try to involve them in the message if you are able. Asking them to repeat some key phrases that your translator has just spoken to them, is an excellent tool. If you are experienced with flannelgraph or other teaching aids, feel free to bring and use these. Keep to basics, and make your message very motivational to deepen their singular devotion to Jesus and to boldly tell others about Him.

## CHURCH LEADERS AND EVANGELISTS

When working with Leaders, you can go into deeper spiritual truths and concepts. However also with them, try to keep your message practical and well illustrated. Remember, these are front-line workers who are depending on your words possibly for the next six months of material they will teach to the young Believers in their villages!

**LOOKING FORWARD TO AN AWESOME TIME TOGETHER!**



TellAsia's founder and director Leanna with our two key indigenous leaders Alok and David, signing "victory" during the 2020 Network conference 2014

Please feel free to contact us at:

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