

Planning for Housing in India

A Worksheet To Help You Brainstorm Your Living Situation in India

By: Jennifer Kumar

Disclaimer: Expats and Non- Resident Indians (NRIs) returning to India (R2I) have many important things to consider when identifying a place to stay. Answers to these questions vary widely on the city, its infrastructure, and available resources. No two situations will be the same.

Directions on using these questions:

1. Read through the questions first, alone or with others making the decisions with you.
2. Rank the questions in your order of importance.
3. Be aware that the clearer you are in asking initial questions or follow up questions the more chance there is to get a relevant answer.
4. Be aware that there are some questions that you may not get the answers to until you get to India. If those questions were ranked high on your level of importance, consider your reactions to finding out at the last minute.
5. To see an example of how to use this worksheet, follow this link-

<http://blog.authenticjourneys.info/2012/10/overcoming-culture-shock-self-help.html>

Questions by Topic:

Electric (Current)

Do you have uninterrupted power supply? Yes No

How frequent, if at all are power cuts? _____

What kind of electrical gadgets will you be bringing to India? _____

Are these usable in India (with adaptors)? Yes No

Does the place you're staying have a generator / inverter? Yes No



Food, meals, drinks, drinking water.

Is there any food provided in the place you will stay? Yes No

Who prepares food for you?

Restaurant Chef in hotel Maid / Cook Myself / Family

What appliances are available?

Microwave Coffee Pot/Carafe Stove/ Gas Cylinder
 Fridge Other _____

(Take note, if there is a fridge, does it work when you are not in the room or when the power goes out?)

How will you access drinking water?

Water Purifier Bottled Water Water Bottle Delivery Other

Internet

Is there already an internet option available where you will be living? Yes No

If you need to arrange it, what are the local ISPs and what options are there for connections?

How long does it take to get these connections?

How will you arrange your work if your Internet speed is not up to your comfort level?

How much do you rely on the Internet for work or personal reasons?

Where would you be able to access the net from outside your residence if required?

Notes:



Jennifer Kumar, MSW, CC
OWNER AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR, AUTHENTIC JOURNEYS
authenticjourneys@gmail.com | <http://authenticjourneys.info>

Laundry

Will your accommodation have a washing machine? Yes No

If not, how does one arrange for laundry service? _____

Can you do your laundry and ironing on your own or must you have a maid or washerman do it?

(Be aware that dryers like we have in America are not available or rare to find in India, clothes are dried outside in the sun.)

House Cleaning

Is hiring a maid necessary for you? How will you go about doing this?

Waste Management / Garbage

How does waste management happen in your community? Is there anything special you have to do to rid of your trash?

Life and Social Factors

If you will be staying an extended time (say a month or more), you may want to know about proximity to places like grocery stores, malls, social outlets available, and other daily life activities.

Notes:

Number of people sponsored to stay with you. _____

If you are going alone, this will not be a concern. However, if you are taking your spouse and/or children with you, budget travel funds accordingly (some companies may pay for the airline tickets of spouse and children).

Notes:



If going alone, is your accommodation shared or is it reserved only for you?

If others are staying there, do you get your own room or have to share with someone else?

Can it be arranged to stay alone if that is your preference?

Phone Facilities

What kinds of phone facilities are there where you will be staying?

For the landline, can you make calls as well as receive calls? Yes No

Can you adapt your mobile/cell phone to use in India? Yes No

Notes:

Proximity to work

How close is your accommodation to work?

Ask clearly the commute time between your accommodation and place of employment during the times you have to travel to and from work. Because of the Indian road, traffic and logistical conditions (which do vary per city) driving times may be very different than what is assumed.

Notes:



Security

Most buildings or housing complexes are gated in with a cement fence. The gate to this compound is watched by a watchman (security guard). If you expect others to visit you, you may give the names to the watchman or they will call up to you when the guests have arrived to confirm they have come to see you.

Notes:

Transportation

How will you get to and from work?

Will your company arrange a car and driver? Yes No

Is this car and driver available for other outings or only transportation to and from work?
 Yes No

Can the driver speak English? (Has the driver had much experience with foreigners?)
 Yes No

Water supply

Is there a 24-hour water supply? Yes No

Will you get hot water in your room? Yes No

(In India bathrooms are fitted with a geyser, the concept of a centralized hot water heater is not popular. Some places store water on the top of the building and the sun heats it throughout the day.)

Are hot water tanks (geysers) already installed in the accommodation? Yes No

If yes, in which rooms?

If no, who is responsible for purchasing and installing them?

Where is the switch to turn on the water pump?

5



Jennifer Kumar, MSW, CC
OWNER AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR, AUTHENTIC JOURNEYS
authenticjourneys@gmail.com | <http://authenticjourneys.info>

Updated September 2013
©2013 Do not reprint without permission.

(In many houses and apartments in India, there is a switch somewhere in the main house that will pump water from the common well or house's well to the tank. This switch has to be turned on by the person living in the house, and turned off when the pump is full. Knowing the pump is full can be done by seeing when the tank overfills and spills out in some cases. One must keep an eye on it. Take note that many pumps may not be usable when the electricity goes out.)

Is there a 24- water supply? Yes No

If living in a villa, what other sources of water available (water delivery via water truck) in case the water runs out? (Note down names of delivery services and their phone numbers):

Weather (Climate)

Find out what is the typical dress code and pack appropriately for work and climate conditions. Bring your favorite sun-tan lotion.

Are mosquitoes a problem in that area? Yes No
(Bring mosquito repellent or buy it in India, a mosquito net for your bed may be required as well.)

Which pests are a problem?

What are the names of the pest control companies and the fees for service?
Notes:

This worksheet is created and provided by Jennifer Kumar, Cross-Cultural Coach at Authentic Journeys. I am happy to meet you for a coaching session to clarify your moving plans to India. Thanks for using this resource and feel free to contact me with your feedback or experiences with using this form. My contact information is on the bottom of each page of this document.

6



Jennifer Kumar, MSW, CC
OWNER AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR, AUTHENTIC JOURNEYS
authenticjourneys@gmail.com | <http://authenticjourneys.info>

Updated September 2013
©2013 Do not reprint without permission.