

Reference Name in India: What to Enter

The Reference section of the India e-Visa form is mandatory and includes two fields most applicants don't expect: a State dropdown and a District dropdown. This guide covers what to enter for every common situation.

What the form is asking for

The Reference section appears on the **Other Information** page, below the SAARC questions. It requires two separate contacts:

- ✓ **Reference Name in India** — name, address, State (dropdown), District (dropdown), phone
- ✓ **Reference Name in your home country** — name, address, phone (min. 6 digits)

All fields carry a red asterisk. The form will not submit without every one of them filled.

State and District dropdowns

After the two address lines, you must select a **State** from a dropdown, then a **District** that populates only after you pick a State. Until both are selected the form shows "Details required" in red.

If you don't know the district: search "[city name] district" — every Indian address falls under one. A hotel in Colaba is in Mumbai City district, Maharashtra. A guesthouse in Hauz Khas is in South Delhi district, Delhi.

Phone formatting rules

- ✓ **India reference phone:** numbers and () + - and spaces only. No extensions, no letters.
- ✓ **Home-country phone:** minimum 6 digits.

What to enter, by situation

Hotel booking

Use your first hotel. Pull from the Google Business listing:

- ✓ Name exactly as listed
- ✓ Full address across both lines
- ✓ State and District of that city
- ✓ Landline from listing, no extension

Airbnb or homestay

Use the host's name and property address. Message the host for the exact address and district — Airbnb hides it until after booking.

Staying with relatives or friends

- ✓ Full name as on ID
- ✓ Residential address, state, district
- ✓ Working mobile number

Business visit

Use the Indian company — specifically the HR contact or host, not a generic front desk. Include state and district of that office. Keep consistent with any invitation letter.

Conference or event

Use the venue and organiser SPOC name and phone. Match the conference invitation letter.

Home-country reference

The label is dynamic — a British applicant sees "Reference Name in UNITED KINGDOM." Use a parent, spouse, sibling, or close friend with their home address and a working phone number (minimum 6 digits). Not your own name and address.

Medical visit

Use the hospital name, address, state, district, and international patient desk contact. Match the hospital letter required for e-Medical visas.

Yoga or short course

Use the institute's name, address, and contact — the same institute in your enrolment letter.

Group tour

Use the **Indian ground handler**, not your overseas agency. Get the name, address, and district from your operator.

Arriving by cruise

Use the cruise line's Indian port agent for your arrival port. Use that port's state and district.

Nothing booked yet

- ✓ Book one refundable night and use those details, or
- ✓ Use the property you intend to book

Either beats leaving the field blank or entering NA.

Common mistakes

Ignoring State and District. Both are mandatory dropdowns. District only populates after State is selected.

- ✓ **Mismatched addresses.** Keep your reference and your "address where you will stay in India" aligned to the same property.
- ✓ **Using your own name.** The India reference must be a third party.
- ✓ **Phone extensions or letters.** Rejected by the validator.
- ✓ **Invented or unreachable details.** The e-Visa team emails applicants for clarification.

Before you hit Save and Continue

- ☐ Reference Name in India is a real third party, not NA
- ☐ Address filled across both lines
- ☐ State selected from dropdown
- ☐ District selected (populates after State)
- ☐ India phone: numbers, () + - and spaces only
- ☐ Home-country reference name and address complete
- ☐ Home-country phone is at least 6 digits

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