

Indian Wedding Guest Packing List

What to pack for an Indian wedding as a guest — multiple events, color etiquette, and the gifting norms that catch first-time guests off guard.

WHY INDIAN WEDDING GUEST PACKING IS DIFFERENT

Indian weddings are rarely a single event — expect anywhere from two to several days of separate functions, each with its own dress code, from a daytime ceremony to an evening reception. Color carries real etiquette: white and black are traditionally avoided as they're associated with mourning, while bright colors and rich fabrics are welcomed. Add the expectation of a gift or cash envelope at most functions, and packing for a wedding takes more planning than packing for sightseeing.

CLOTHING

- A festive outfit for each function — daytime events tend to be brighter, evening events richer and more formal
- Avoid all-white or all-black outfits, traditionally linked to mourning at Indian celebrations
- One modest, more conservative outfit if any function includes a temple or religious ceremony
- A lightweight shawl or stole — useful for both styling and modest coverage at religious moments
- Comfortable, breathable fabrics underneath embellished outerwear — events often run long and warm
- A backup outfit in case of last-minute stains or weather changes

FOOTWEAR & ACCESSORIES

- Statement footwear for the main events, but broken-in enough to stand and dance in for hours
- A comfortable backup pair for daytime functions or transit between venues
- Jewelry or accessories that suit Indian formalwear, even if simple
- Small clutch or bag big enough for a phone, cash, and a gift envelope
- Safety pins and a small sewing kit — useful for sarees, dupattas, and embellished outfits

HEALTH, DOCUMENTS & TECH

- Cash for a gift envelope (shagun) — a common gesture at Indian weddings, given directly to the couple or family
- Stain-removal wipes for rich foods and mehndi (henna) staining
- Personal medication, especially anything for long days of standing and dancing
- Portable charger and a universal plug adapter (India: Type C/D/M)
- Copy of the invitation or event schedule, since timings can shift
- Touch-up makeup or grooming kit for multi-day events with little downtime between functions

Exact gift amounts and customs vary by family and region, so it's worth asking your host or a local guest what's typical.

