

# Monsoon India Packing List

What to pack for traveling India during monsoon season — keeping gear dry, fabrics mildew-free, and feet blister-free through daily downpours and standing water.

## WHY MONSOON PACKING IS DIFFERENT

Monsoon travel in India isn't about dressing for one rainy afternoon — it's weeks of high humidity, sudden downpours, and standing water that never fully dries out. Cotton stays damp for days, leather grows mildew overnight, and ordinary phone chargers and shoes don't survive being soaked repeatedly. The real packing challenge is moisture management: keeping yourself dry, keeping your bag's contents dry, and keeping fabrics from turning musty before you've even unpacked at the next hotel.

## CLOTHING

- Quick-dry synthetic or technical fabrics over cotton — cotton stays wet for hours in humidity
- Lightweight rain jacket or packable poncho rather than a heavy raincoat
- A few extra changes of underwear and socks — staying dry matters more than usual
- Quick-dry travel towel that won't grow mildew if packed slightly damp
- Light long-sleeve layer for air-conditioned trains and lobbies, which can feel cold against wet clothes
- One outfit kept sealed in a dry bag as a guaranteed-dry backup for arrival days

## FOOTWEAR & ACCESSORIES

- Waterproof or quick-dry sandals for daily wear — leather shoes stay damp and can mildew
- Closed water-resistant shoes for city walking on flooded or uneven streets
- Compact umbrella, ideally wind-resistant
- Dry bags or zip-lock bags in a few sizes for phone, passport, and electronics
- Anti-fungal foot powder — feet that stay damp in wet shoes are prone to fungal issues
- Microfiber cloth for wiping down wet gear before it goes back in the bag

## HEALTH, DOCUMENTS & TECH

- Silica gel packets or a small dehumidifying pouch for your bag
- Anti-fungal cream and antiseptic for cuts or rashes from wet conditions
- Mosquito repellent — standing water increases mosquito activity even in cities
- Waterproof phone pouch for daily use, not just emergencies
- Photocopies or digital scans of documents in case originals get wet
- Portable charger stored in a zip-lock bag, plus a universal plug adapter (India: Type C/D/M)
- Resealable bags to separate wet and dry laundry while traveling

Monsoon timing and intensity vary widely by region, so check the specific dates for your destination before you pack.