



Experience
Central India Christian Mission



CENTRAL INDIA CHRISTIAN MISSION



Dear Friends of CICM,

We are so happy that you are interested in visiting Central India Christian Mission. Your presence will be tremendously encouraging to the CICM staff, the believers and the unreached people with whom you will come in contact. During your trip, you will see how God is working through CICM, and you will also become more familiar with the Mission and its operations. We feel it is important for our partners to visit us to see how our partnership is bearing fruit, obtain a better understanding of the Mission and discover ways to support – and be able to meet – our leaders, children, students and others who are involved. Traveling halfway around the world to India is unlike many other mission trips. It is important to be as informed as possible about what to expect during your visit.

Please review this packet. We want your trip to be a rewarding experience.

We look forward to your visit.

With grateful hearts,

Drs. Ajai and Indu Lall



CENTRAL INDIA CHRISTIAN MISSION (CICM)

EXISTS TO TAKE THE LOVE AND KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST
TO UNREACHED PEOPLE IN INDIA, NEPAL, BHUTAN, AND BANGLADESH...
AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.



Drs. Ajai and Indu Lall founded Central India Christian Mission in 1982 to follow the call of Jesus' Great Commission by establishing a mission center in their home country of India. What started with these two faithful servants has grown into a multifaceted mission helping thousands of people each year through evangelistic and benevolent ministries including:

- ⊗ Church Planting/Evangelism
- ⊗ Children's Ministry
- ⊗ Youth Ministry
- ⊗ Medical Ministry
- ⊗ Leadership Training
- ⊗ Aatma Vikas (Vocational Training)
- ⊗ Disaster Relief

Thousands of lives have been touched by the still, small voice of Jesus Christ through the Lall family and the evangelists in India since CICM's inception in 1982. The generous hearts of CICM's supporters have fueled this ministry from the beginning, setting a solid foundation on which CICM can continue to share the Good News with countless more in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh...and to the ends of the Earth.







Experience Central India Christian Mission

This guide was designed to help you prepare for your visit to Central India Christian Mission (CICM). We like to call your visit a Vision Trip, because this experience will allow you to catch the vision of CICM in a way that is unmatched. You will see, hear, and feel the many facets and faces of the Mission that come together to make up the whole of CICM.

Each trip with CICM is customized for each individual team. Every trip provides the opportunity to see the work of the Spirit in the lives of the people in India. Visitors will gain in-depth knowledge about the culture in India, CICM facilities, and daily operations of CICM.

To schedule a Vision trip, please contact Dr. Ajai Lall. For any questions regarding planning for your trip, please contact our US Office at info@indiamission.org.

Dr. Ajai Lall

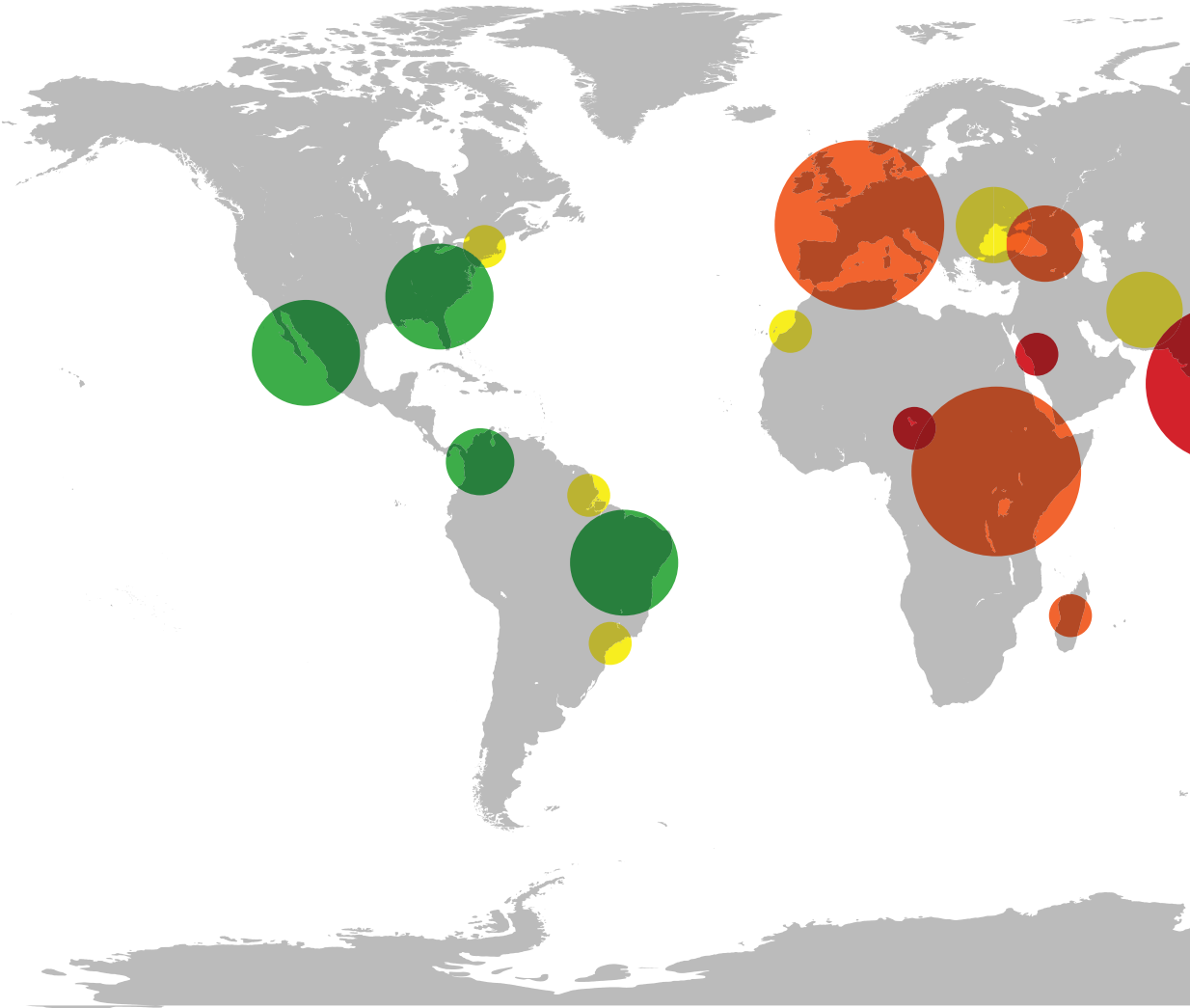
Founder and Director of Central India
Christian Mission

alall@indiamission.org

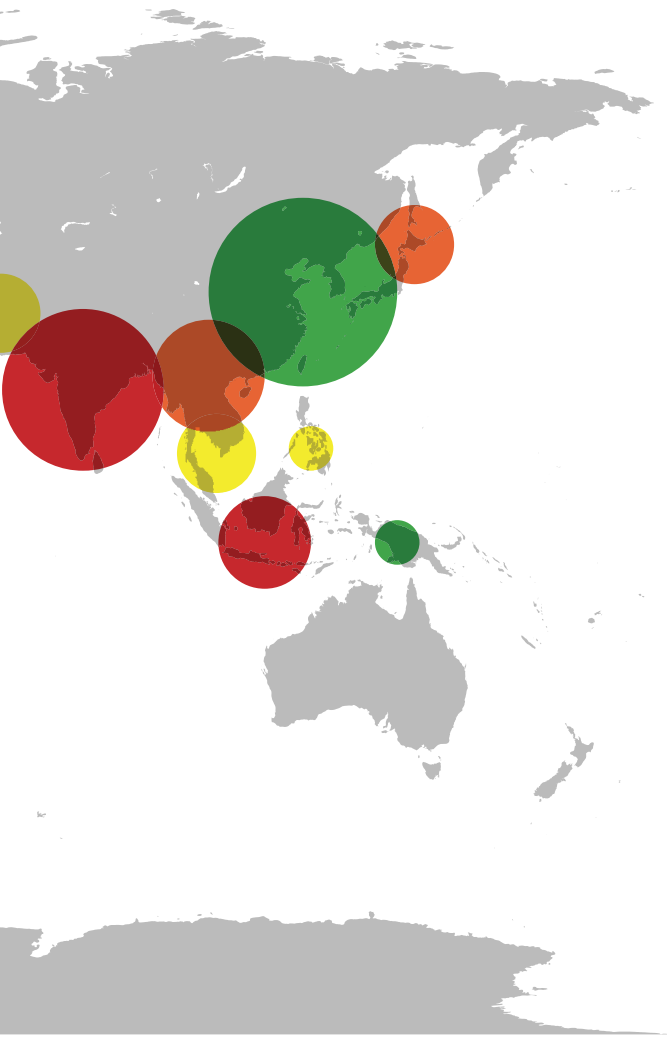
Central India Christian Mission
U.S. Office

info@indiamission.org

Global Status of Evangelical Christians



- no evangelical Christians or churches
- less than 2% evangelical; no active church planting
- greater than or equal to 2% evangelical dispersed or widespread church planting
- greater than or equal to 5% evangelical



planning your trip

Expenses

Travel documents

Health information

Suggested items to pack

Safety and security

what to expect

Arrival, departure, customs

Food and water

Climate

Culture

FAQs

Internet and phone

Money and cash

Itinerary

Laundry

Gifts

Shopping

how to prepare your heart & mind





planning your trip

EXPENSES

Airfare

Airfare will vary depending on the airline you choose and when and where you depart. Schedule your flight to arrive in New Delhi. As a point of reference, the typical airfare is about \$1,200-\$1,500 from the United States. It is best, but not required, that the group meet together at an airport and arrive in India on the same plane. If this is not possible, plan to depart and arrive within a few hours of each other.

In-country expenses

The in-country expenses are based on actual expenses and generally total approximately \$1,500. This estimate covers travel, food and lodging. In-country expenses will vary based on your itinerary. For example, expenses will be higher if you visit CICM's work in northeast India. In-country expenses will also vary depending on the number and quality of hotels you stay in, and whether or not you have any in-country flights or utilize train transportation. In-country expenses will also vary depending on the current exchange rate.

Please take in-country expense money with you to India. It needs to be taken in CASH and if possible, in \$100 bills. Paying for your expenses in this way, for many reasons, is a great help for the Mission.

Upon arrival, a CICM representative will take the cash you have brought for in-country expenses and handle all transactions for the duration of your trip. You also do not need worry about scheduling in country flights, train rides or hotel stays, as that will be taken care of by CICM. You will be given an itemized receipt at the end of your trip indicating everything that was purchased, along with any cash not spent or cashed owed if applicable.

We also recommend that each traveler take additional cash for things like shopping, souvenirs, gifts, making phone calls and the like.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Passport

All U.S. citizens must have a valid passport to enter and exit India. The National Passport Information Center (NPIC) is the U.S. Department of State's center for U.S. passport information. You can reach NPIC at 1-877-487-2778.

Always carry your passport with you in a safe place. Additionally, the name on your airline ticket should match the name on your passport, per TSA Secure Flight Program requirements.

Visa

All U.S. citizens must have a valid India visa to enter and exit India. It is recommended that each visitor obtain the Indian e-Tourist Visa. For more information and to apply, visit <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>.

It is extremely important that you follow the guidelines below:

*DO NOT Use Dr. Lall's name or CICM anywhere on your application

*Enter New Delhi as the Place to be visited

*Enter New Delhi as the Port of Arrival in India

*Enter New Delhi as the Expected Port of Exit from India

*Number of Entries: Single

*If you are a pastor or work in a church or Christian setting, please be careful with filling in your occupation. Simplify and put 'Business Person', 'Accountant', 'Office Manager', or something similar to avoid questions related to religious affiliations. Stating that you are a pastor or work for a church or Christian organization will most likely delay your application and you will be asked many questions.

*Use this name and address as your reference in India:

Delhi Fellowship Center
C-32-D Freedom Fighters Colony
Neb Sarai
New Delhi-110068
India Phone: 011 295 35918
Contact Person: Mr. Anil Moses
Cell Phone: 092 1000 6849

OR

Mr. M. T. Alex
Cell Phone: 09810280480

*Name and Address of a Reference in US:

Name of Relative/Friend
Street Address
City, State Zip Code
Telephone number

Processing time

Applicants may apply online a minimum of 4 days in advance of the date of arrival with a window of 30 days. Example: If you are applying on September 1st, then you can select an arrival date from September 5th to October 4th. Additionally, we recommend that tickets not be purchased until all visas are granted and in your possession.

Indian visa regulations change frequently without advance notice, and are often poorly advertised and inconsistently enforced. Travelers are urged to check the India Government's Ministry of Home Affairs website before any travel to India to review the most current information.

HEALTH INFORMATION

The latest health and vaccination information is available at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or you can contact your family doctor. Some inoculations are time sensitive, so be sure to allow for the time needed. For information on infectious diseases abroad, consult the World Health Organization website.

Medical help is always available from the Mission Hospital in India. However, medical insurance that will evacuate you to the U.S. in the event of a medical emergency or like circumstance is an option you may consider, although it is not required. If you decide to purchase medical insurance, you will need to do so before departing the United States. CICM does not require additional insurance, nor does it recommend or endorse any particular agency. Please check your current policy before you decide to purchase extra insurance.

SUGGESTED ITEMS TO PACK

We suggest only taking one suitcase and a backpack or carry-on per visitor, as space can be tight on in-country transportation.

Clothing

While visiting India, you will want to wear comfortable, modest clothing. A light jacket or sweater is needed for cool evenings and in air-conditioned rooms. A nicer outfit is appropriate for church services. Remember that if you are going during summer, it will be very hot! Linen and lightweight materials are best. You will also want comfortable walking shoes. Sandals are acceptable (your feet will get dirty though). It's best if you can pack lightly.

Women: Do not wear tight-fitting clothing, shorts, tank tops, sleeveless shirts or low-cut blouses. Jeans, slacks, long skirts and capris (below the knee) are acceptable. Knee length dresses with leggings are appropriate. Scarves are worn by most women in India and are a good accessory to take. Indians are

honored when visitors wear traditional Indian clothing. This is not necessary, but is appropriate if you choose to do so.

Men: Jeans and t-shirts are acceptable, while khakis and a polo or button up are appropriate for church services. Shorts are acceptable while visiting the Damoh campus.

Additional items

Toilet paper (many places you go will not have toilet paper)

Hand sanitizer (there may not always be sinks available to wash your hands)

Outlet converters

Always carry a set of clean clothes with you in a backpack (just in case)

Snack Bars

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Before traveling to India, you should regularly monitor the Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs website at www.travel.state.gov, where current worldwide caution, travel alerts and travel warnings can be found.

Always be aware of your surroundings and consider the security around you when you are visiting public places. Petty crime is common on public transportation, so be sure to take care of your bags and valuables, especially your passport, and be cautious about displaying cash. Never separate from your team. Streets are normally crowded, so it's important to stay together.

While traveling in India, you will be escorted by a CICM representative at all times. Traveling by train is the primary means of transportation in India. You should expect one or more train rides and you may travel on an overnight train, which could last up to 8-12 hours. You will typically travel second class.

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program

Make your whereabouts known. Travel registration is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to a foreign country. Record information about your trip abroad so that the Department of State can assist you if there is an emergency. Enroll in the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). U.S. citizens can enroll directly at the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. For more information, visit <https://step.state.gov/step/>.

Inform your bank

Notify your bank of your travel plans. U.S. banks sometimes do not allow cash withdrawals in foreign countries without prior notification. Even if you don't plan to use your credit card while traveling, this will be helpful in airports during layovers.

US Embassy

Shantipath, Chanakyapuri,

New Delhi, Delhi 110021

Tel: 91-11-2419-8000; fax: 91-11-24190017

newdelhi.usembassy.gov

Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

what to expect

Arrival, departure, customs

CICM representatives will meet you at the airport in New Delhi and help you get settled to start your visit. Your schedule will vary every day, but when you arrive in India you will receive a daily schedule from your CICM guide. Throughout the time you are in India, a guide from CICM will escort you.

The security at the New Delhi airport is rigid. Upon departure, you will only be allowed to enter the airport if you can prove you are a passenger. For this you will need your ticket and boarding pass or copy of your itinerary to prove you are a passenger arriving to check in for your flight. It is best to have hard copies of your airline tickets; presenting them on a mobile or electronic device will not always work.

When going through Customs in either the U.S. or India, politely answer only the questions you are asked. Refrain from making jokes.

Food and water

You will eat Indian food while traveling in India. Fresh foods, such as raw fruits and vegetables, are considered unsafe for you to eat. Only eat cooked, hot food. It is okay to take non-perishable snacks and bars with you.

Please be sure to only drink water out of a sealed water bottle. We recommend using bottled water to brush your teeth as well.

Climate

Trips are usually scheduled for January through April or October through November. These are the best times to travel to central India. During the spring months, the weather is extremely hot, sometimes reaching to over 125°F. The monsoon season occurs during the summer months. During this time, travel is unpredictable and can be difficult because of the monsoon rains. Check the international weather report to prepare accordingly.

Culture

The following are a few cultural notes and recommendations.

You will be greeted by Christians who will place garlands (heavy ropes of marigolds and other flowers) around your neck. Please accept these graciously. When you take off the garlands, fold them respectfully and place them on a chair or desk, not on the floor. This is their welcome and they are excited to honor you in this way.

Indians will want to shake hands, pray with you, etc., because you may be the first American they have ever seen. Some may even touch your feet out of respect. Do not be alarmed.

There will be a lot of pollution, trash, cows, shrines, people and stray dogs on the streets. It can be overwhelming, but try to prepare yourself for the culture shock. Eye drops are sometimes helpful for highly polluted areas.

Do not give money to beggars on the street. We understand this is especially difficult given that needs seem so great. Your guides will give to people in need if appropriate.

It is not appropriate to discuss anything financial about CICM, except with Dr. Ajai Lall privately.

Do not invite anyone to visit the United States. Also, please do not give your address, phone numbers, emails, etc., to anyone.

Consult a travel guidebook for a comprehensive list of do's and don'ts and for more information.

“Namaste” is India's traditional greeting.

“Hello” and “hi” are acceptable greetings.

As a Westerner, handshaking is an appropriate gesture. Out of respect for women, men usually do not shake hands with or touch women in public. However, Indian men will shake hands with Westerners, and educated women may do so as a courtesy.

Men should never give a woman a hug. This is not done in public or private unless you are very close to the family/person. Men will hug men. Women should not hug a man.

It is considered polite to use terms such as Professor, Doctor, Mr. and Miss.

It is common for Indians to use titles such as Brother and Sister. It is appropriate for Westerners to use these titles as well (ex: Brother Abhijeet).

Public displays of affection are considered inappropriate. Even if you are traveling with your spouse, be mindful and respectful in public places when it comes to hugging and handholding.

Eating habits vary between traditional and modern settings. It is common that Indians will not use utensils, but will eat with their hands.

FAQs

Internet and phone

You will be able to call home from New Delhi. We don't recommend calling from the hotels, as the calls are very expensive. You may also be able to call from the CICM campus in Damoh. The phones in India are unreliable, so you may have to try a few times before you get through.

Most U.S. cell phones will not work in India. You need to make sure both your phone and wireless provider will accommodate international calls. Check with your cell phone provider before departing the U.S. to ensure you will be able to make and receive calls in India. Some companies offer international cell phone rentals.

Most hotels and CICM buildings will have Wi-Fi. You may not be able to use the Internet everyday, but it should be available most days.

Money / cash

You need to bring around \$2,000 total; \$1,500 to give to your CICM guide and \$500 to keep on hand for incidentals.

Itinerary

Every trip and every day is different and your itinerary can always change. The team in India handles your complete in-country itinerary. If you have any specific requests, please email them to Dr. Ajai Lall.

Laundry

Laundry services are available at the Bal Bhavan home in Damoh.

Gifts

It is appropriate to bring gifts for the children and/or a pastor and his family.

For children, candy, small toys, or something that is small and that you can bring many of works well. For pastors and their families, something sentimental is a good idea. Due to cultural differences, gifts to a particular pastor should to be given to the family in a private setting due to risks of jealousy.

Shopping

There is a store at the Bal Bahavan home where you can purchase traditional Indian items. The proceeds at this store goes toward the students' college funds (you may use U.S. dollars here). You may also have opportunities to shop in the market place in the towns, but this is not guaranteed.

how to prepare your heart, mind, and body

Examine your heart. Spend some time thinking about why are you going on this trip and why you signed up in the first place.

Things to pray for:

- Pray for God to open your heart. Pray that your heart would stay pure and open to what God has in store for you during your trip.
- Pray for what you will see. India suffers from extreme poverty. There are many things you will see that may be hard to process. Pray that your heart and mind are ready.
- Pray for opportunity. You are traveling to a country that is approximately 6% Christian. The pastors and leaders of CICM have given everything and risk a great deal to serve Jesus Christ and take His name throughout the land. You have an opportunity to encourage and love on these people, as well as make an impact on the non-believers you come into contact with.

Journaling is a great way to prepare yourself. Be open and honest with God and journal your feelings and thoughts leading up to your trip, during your trip, and after your trip. This is a good way to remember what you were feeling throughout the journey and how you grew and changed over that period of time.

Be sure to get as much sleep as you can before your trip. You will be traveling for many hours to get to India and once there, you will deal with the effects of jet lag. All trips to India vary, but you will be busy and will most likely not have much down time.

Eat well and load up on your vitamins before leaving the U.S. You will want to arrive in India feeling healthy and strong. Not all meals have cooked vegetables, and since you will not be able to eat uncooked vegetables and fresh fruits, be sure to bring the necessary vitamins for yourself.

After returning home, we would welcome the opportunity to learn about your assessment of the trip. Please email info@indiamission.org to leave any feedback and let us know if you'd like to be contacted.

God bless!



CENTRAL INDIA CHRISTIAN MISSION

www.indiamission.org