



## **Protocols in place for sites in India as on August 2, 2021**

### **General:**

This year, India has had a challenging few months after being hit by a second wave. Fortunately the numbers came down as fast as they had gone up and by the end of June, the situation was already similar to what it had been prior to the second wave. While we are still not completely rid of Covid, there is a lot of positivity – especially due to the vaccine drive.

As of now the India numbers have greatly reduced and North India, especially, is showing very low numbers – in some cases, the lowest since April 2020. In most northern cities, life has largely returned to what we now call “our new normal”. Almost all aspects of life are now functional.

In larger cities, the public continues to be particular about following protocols and most people wear masks diligently. The smaller cities and villages show a lower degree of ‘mask use’ but despite this, numbers continue to be low in most states. The southern state of Kerala is still showing considerable numbers which the government is working hard to contain.

### **Vaccination programme:**

India’s vaccination drive is making good progress – the total number of doses given in India is over 472 million till date. Out of this, 104 million people have received both doses. The government hopes to vaccinate the full adult population by the end of 2021 and in this endeavour, we expect to see additional vaccine brands becoming available soon – in addition to the 3 that are already being administered.

For the Micato India team, 50% have been fully vaccinated. The remaining are fully vaccinated as per eligibility and have received their first dose. By October 2021, all Micato staff including drivers and all support staff will be fully vaccinated.

Details on functionality in cities:

### **Offices and educational institutions:**

Most offices have now reopened however continue to follow protocols and are operating with limited attendance and a combination of an in office/ at home schedule.

Educational institutions have also started to open with limitations and on a voluntary basis – but very slowly. Most primary schools remain closed.

### **Markets and malls:**

Markets and malls in states where lockdowns have been lifted, are now all open and follow near normal timings. The exception is containment zones. In general, the footfall is somewhat lighter than pre Covid times however some crowds have been observed in some large markets. The government is being stricter and some markets have been shut down in cases like these.

### **Cinema halls:**

Cinema halls have just started to open but are not seeing much footfall.

**Large gatherings:**

The maximum numbers continue to be regulated and vary depending on state and cities.

**International travel:**

No change. This remains mostly closed with limited travel allowed to certain countries under the applicable restrictions. There is no clarity yet on when India may open to international visitors. Tourist visas remain suspended however the government has announced that when issuance does resume, the first 500,000 visas will be free.

Bhutan remains in lockdown and have not re-opened to international visitors. Sri Lanka and Nepal are open with restrictions.

**Hotels and restaurants:**

Most hotels and restaurants are now open. The weekends remain busy at many hotels – with domestic travellers. Safety is well maintained and a greater confidence towards travel continues. Resort destinations are seeing good numbers – especially hill resorts.

Offsite restaurants mentioned in the itinerary are in hotels – Samode Palace and Devigarh. They remain open and are maintaining the highest standards of safety and hygiene.

**Sites and monuments:**

All ticketed sites in India are either government run or privately run by trusts. All these sites have protocols in place as given below. Currently numbers of visitors is increasing.

- Wearing a mask at all times is essential
- Social distancing required
- Temperature checked at the entrance
- Hand sanitizer being provided at the entrance
- Regular sanitization within sites
- Flexibility to close off certain sections to maintain safety
- No eatables allowed

**DELHI (all sites mentioned below are currently open to visitors):****Humayun's Tomb, Delhi:**

- There is no formal restrictions of numbers of visitors allowed at a time. This is managed at the local level and is subject to change.
- Guards on duty to ensure social distancing is maintained
- Online ticketing and contactless scanning of tickets encouraged

**Gurudwara, Delhi (not ticketed but follow protocols):**

- Sanitization tunnels in place at the entrances
- Staff on duty to ensure social distancing is maintained

**Qutab Minar, Delhi:**

- There is no formal restrictions of numbers of visitors allowed at a time. This is managed at the local level and is subject to change.
- Guards on duty to ensure social distancing is maintained
- Online ticketing and contactless scanning of tickets encouraged

**Jama Masjid, Delhi (not ticket except for cameras):**

- Staff on duty to ensure social distancing is maintained

## **AGRA**

**Agra monuments are currently only open during the week and closed on Saturday and Sunday due to the lockdown rules in place.**

### **Agra Fort, Agra:**

- There is no formal restrictions of numbers of visitors allowed at a time. This is managed at the local level and is subject to change.
- Guards on duty to ensure social distancing is maintained
- Online ticketing and contactless scanning of tickets encouraged

### **Taj Mahal, Agra:**

- There is no formal restrictions of numbers of visitors allowed at a time. This is managed at the local level and is subject to change.
- Guards on duty to ensure social distancing is maintained
- Online ticketing and contactless scanning of tickets encouraged

### **Itmad-ud-Daulah, Agra:**

- There is no formal restrictions of numbers of visitors allowed at a time. This is managed at the local level and is subject to change.
- Guards on duty to ensure social distancing is maintained
- Online ticketing and contactless scanning of tickets encouraged

### **Mehtab Bagh, Agra:**

- There is no formal restrictions of numbers of visitors allowed at a time. This is managed at the local level and is subject to change.
- Guards on duty to ensure social distancing is maintained
- Online ticketing and contactless scanning of tickets encouraged

## **JAIPUR (all sites mentioned below are open to visitors):**

### **City Palace and Observatory, Jaipur:**

- Guards on duty to ensure social distancing is maintained
- Online/over the counter ticketing and contactless scanning of tickets

### **Amber Fort, Jaipur:**

- Guards on duty to ensure social distancing is maintained
- Online/over the counter ticketing and contactless scanning of tickets

## **UDAIPUR (all sites mentioned below are open to visitors):**

### **City Palace, Udaipur:**

- Guards on duty to ensure social distancing is maintained

### **Eklingji and Nagda Temples, Udaipur:**

- Guards on duty to ensure social distancing is maintained

**VARANASI:**

Varanasi sites and monuments are currently only open during the week and closed on Saturday and Sunday due to the lockdown rules in place.

**Sarnath:**

- There is no formal restrictions of numbers of visitors allowed at a time. This is managed at the local level and is subject to change.
- Guards on duty to ensure social distancing is maintained
- Online and contactless scanning of tickets

**Other:**

- Boat rides are operational
- The aarti ceremony has now resumed at the ghats
- Temples are open with all government dictated SOP's and limited visitors.

**Note on ticketing at monuments:** At all ASI monuments (except in Agra) physical tickets are being sold where there are network problems and smooth online sales have been a challenge. A blanket capping of number of visitors has been removed. Local authorities can decide on the total number of the visitors for each monument. Numbers may therefore fluctuate from time to time depending on the situation in each city.

**Local Markets:**

All local markets in all the cities are open except in containment zones. (Containment zones are areas within a city that has a high Covid-19 prevalence and dictated by local authorities on a regular basis). While social distancing is suggested, there is very limited enforcement. Masks remain essential and most shops maintain a sanitizing protocol.

Crowding and social distancing tends to be unpredictable in larger/ busier markets.