



Our Personal Guest

A READING LIST FOR INDIA

Here are some titles you might like to read to prepare for your trip to India.

TRAVEL GUIDES

- Knopf Guides **India: Rajasthan,**
- Lonely Planet, **India: A Travel Survival Kit,**
- Louise Nicholson, **India in Luxury,**
- Insight Guides
- John Keay, **Into India and India Discovered**

GENERAL READING

- Shobita Punja, **Great Monuments of the Indian Subcontinent:** Published in New Delhi and distributed by Seven Hills Book Distributors - in the U.S. (Hard to get, but the very best.)
- Huston Smith, **The World's Religions:** Harper. (A winner)
- Karen Armstrong, **Buddha:** (Fun!)
- Shakuntala Jagannathan, **Hinduism – An Introduction**

ART HISTORY/ HISTORY

- Roy Craven, **Indian Art, A Concise History,** Thames & Hudson.
- V. Dehejia, **Indian Art,** Phaidon.
- Francis Watson, **A Concise History of India**
- Larry Collins & Dominique Lapierre, **Freedom at Midnight**

- John Keay, **India A History:** (This may be a good book to take with you. It's available in paperback now)

FILMS

- **Gandhi,** A Richard Attenborough film
- **Jewel in the Crown,** TV series
- **The Mahabharata** directed by Peter Brook - is on video. It is hard to follow, but very beautiful.

EPICS/ FICTION/TRAVEL ESSAYS

- William Dalrymple, **Age of Kali & City of Djinns:** (a fun travel writer).
- Elizabeth Bumiller, **May You Be the Mother of 100 Sons:** (Excellent!)
- Robyn Davidson, **Desert Places:** (A fantastic book to take with you to Rajasthan.)
- Diana Eck, Benares, **City of Light:** (Anything written by this sensitive scholar is a treat)
- **The Bhagavad-Gita,** Barbara Stoller Miller translation: (terrific introduction)
- **Ramayana,** As Retold by William Buck & read by Ram Dass: Audio Literature, P.O. Box 7123, Berkeley, Ca. 94707-1502. (A must!)
- **The Mahabharata:** (A daunting epic → HUGE! There is a new abbreviated

translation by Krishna Dharma. It sounds interesting).

- Hermann Hesse, **Siddhartha**.
- Manil Suri, **The Death of Vishnu**
- Gita Mehta, **A River Sutra**
- Gita Mehta, **Raj**
- Gita Mehta, **Snakes and Ladders**
- Pankaj Mishra, **The Romantics**
- Anand Raj Mulk, **Untouchable**
- Khushwant Singh, **Train to Pakistan**
- Anita Desai, **Anything!**
- Amit Chadhuri, **Freedom Song**
- Arundhati Roy, **God of Small Things**
- Vikram Seth, **A Suitable Boy**
- Paul Scott, **Jewel in the Crown**
- Gurcharan Das, **India Unbound**
- Shashi Tharoor, **India, From Midnight to the Millenium**
&
The Elephant, the Tiger & the Cell Phone

AUDIO

- **Great World Religions: Beliefs, Practices, & Histories**, Part 5, Professor Diana Eck, Harvard University, from The Great Courses on Tape. The Teaching Company, 1-800-832-2412.

Here is a link for Longitude, the specialty bookseller providing recommended reading (and maps) for travelers.

INDIA

<http://reading.longitudebooks.com/LO2926>

LONGITUDE

Recommended Reading for Travelers

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