



Here's 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 bring and read in place. It's available in paperback now.

Films

- **"Gandhi"**, 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 Djinn**s: 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**

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>

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