



INDIALAW

# Travel And Tourism

Leading Travel and Tourism Law Firm in India for Hospitality and Licensing

PRACTICE PROFILE • MAY 2026

## Overview

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India's travel and tourism industry is a significant contributor to the nation's economy, offering a diverse range of niche tourism products, including cruises, adventure, medical, wellness, sports, MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions), eco-tourism, film, rural, and religious tourism. The country is recognized as a destination for spiritual tourism, attracting both domestic and international tourists.

We offer comprehensive legal services to stakeholders across the travel and tourism industry in India. Our expertise encompasses a wide range of areas, including hospitality law, travel agency regulations, aviation, tourism policy compliance, and dispute resolution. We assist clients in navigating the complex legal landscape of the tourism sector, ensuring compliance, protecting intellectual property, and facilitating successful commercial transactions.

## Our Services

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- **Business Structuring and Licensing:**

- Advising on the establishment of travel and tourism businesses, including hotels, resorts, travel agencies, and tour operators.
- Assisting with obtaining necessary licenses and registrations, such as tourism licenses, liquor licenses, and industry-specific licenses.
- Structuring joint ventures and partnerships for tourism-related ventures.

- **Regulatory Compliance:**

- Advising on compliance with tourism laws, environmental regulations, and local government policies.
- Assisting with adherence to safety standards and obtaining necessary permits.
- Providing guidance on compliance with labor laws, data protection laws, and other applicable regulations.

- **Contracts and Agreements:**

- Drafting and reviewing contracts related to hotel management agreements, franchise agreements, lease contracts, and vendor agreements.
- Advising on compliance with franchising laws and regulations.
- Assisting with the purchase or sale of tourism and hospitality businesses, including franchises, mergers, and acquisitions.

- **Intellectual Property Protection:**

- Assisting in the registration and enforcement of trademarks, copyrights, and patents.
- Advising on brand protection strategies and handling infringement issues.
- Drafting and negotiating licensing and assignment agreements.

- **Dispute Resolution:**

- Representing clients in disputes related to contracts, consumer complaints, and regulatory issues.
- Handling litigation, arbitration, and mediation proceedings.
- Advising on conflict resolution strategies to preserve business relationships.

- **Employment and Labor Law:**

- Drafting employment contracts and advising on labor law compliance.
- Handling matters related to employee benefits, workplace policies, and dispute resolution.
- Advising on termination, retrenchment, and other employment-related matters.

- **Consumer Protection:**

- Managing guest complaints and compliance with consumer protection laws.
- Advising on liability issues and risk management strategies.
- Representing clients in consumer forums and regulatory bodies.

- **Cross-Border Legal Matters:**

- Advising on the legal implications of holding assets in multiple jurisdictions.

- Assisting with the establishment of offshore entities and operations.
- Navigating the complexities of international tourism laws and regulations.

## Key Highlights

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Our firm combines deep industry knowledge with legal expertise to deliver practical solutions tailored to the travel and tourism sector. We understand the unique challenges and opportunities within the industry and offer proactive legal support to help clients achieve their objectives while mitigating risks.

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### Q1 What does a travel and tourism law practice cover in India?

It covers business structuring for hotels, resorts, and tour operators; regulatory compliance with tourism and aviation laws; contract drafting for hospitality ventures; IP protection for brands; and dispute resolution across the tourism value chain.

### Q2 When should a tourism business seek legal counsel in India?

Ideally before commencing operations. Licensing requirements, environmental clearances, and state-specific tourism policies impose pre-launch obligations. Early advice helps avoid penalties, operational delays, or denial of approvals from local and central authorities.

### Q3 Which regulators and statutes govern the tourism sector in India?

The Ministry of Tourism sets national policy. DGCA regulates aviation. State tourism departments issue operator licenses. Environmental laws (EIA Notification), FSSAI norms for hospitality, GST provisions, DPDP Act for customer data, and local municipal authorities all apply depending on the business model.

### Q4 What is the typical timeline for licensing a new hotel or tour operator?

Timelines vary by state. A tour operator registration with the Ministry of Tourism may take 30 to 90 days. Hotel approvals, including fire safety, FSSAI, liquor licenses, and pollution NOCs, often take 4 to 8 months collectively. Delays in municipal approvals are a common cost driver.

### Q5 What documents are needed to begin legal work for a tourism venture?

We typically require the entity's incorporation documents, proposed business plan, draft lease or property papers, existing licenses, partnership or JV term sheets, employee details for labor law review, and any pending regulatory correspondence or notices.

### Q6 What common mistakes do tourism businesses make with regulatory compliance?

Many operators begin trading before obtaining state tourism registration or fail to renew permits annually. Others overlook GST obligations on bundled packages, ignore DPDP Act requirements for customer data, or use third-party brand elements without proper licensing, inviting infringement claims.