

## **Medical tourism in India**

Travel Healthcare is a growing sector in India. Approximately 2 million patients visit India each year from 78 countries for medical, wellness and IVF treatments, India receives significant number of medical patients from Australia, Canada, China, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States also.

To encourage applications and ease the travel process for medical tourists, the government has expanded its e-tourism VISA regime in February 2019. The maximum duration of stay under this visa is 6 months. Since 30 August 2019, foreigners can receive any medical treatment in India with the exception of organ transplants without a medical visa.

In Aug 2023, the Government of India's Ministry of Home Affairs has announced the creation of the *Ayush Visa* category for foreign nationals at promoting travel healthcare in India and also and also tech-savvy companies are now stepping in to address this gap, offering online medical tourism in India.

## **Cost**

Most estimates found that treatment costs in India start at around one-tenth of the price of comparable treatment in the United States or the United Kingdom. The most popular treatments sought in India by medical tourists are alternative medicine, bone-marrow transplant, cardiac bypass, eye surgery, and joint replacement.

## **Quality of care**

India has 839 NABH accredited hospitals. However, for a patient traveling to India, it is important to find the optimal doctor-hospital combination. After the patient has been treated, the patient has the option of either recuperating in the hospital or at a paid accommodation nearby. Many hospitals also give the option of continuing the treatment through telemedicine.

The city of Chennai has been termed "India's health capital". Multi- and super-specialty hospitals across the city bring in an estimated 150 international

## **Important Hospitals in India**

India has made significant strides in healthcare over the years, transforming itself into a global hub for medical tourism, patient-centric healthcare services. India's Healthcare landscape is a vibrant tapestry of modernity, tradition, where age-old holistic healing practices coexist harmoniously with cutting-edge medical technology. The nation boasts at the vast network of hospitals, clinics, healthcare institution, catering to the diverse needs of 1.3 billion inhabitants.

One of noteworthy aspects of India's Healthcare System is its affordability, making it accessible to a broad spectrum of local and foreign patients. The nation has established itself as a prime destination for medical tourists seeking top-notch healthcare at a fraction of the price compared to Western countries. These hospitals offer a wide array of medical treatments and services, ranging from general medicine and surgery to highly specialized procedures such as organ transplant and cancer treatment.

### **1. Medanta – The Medicity, Gurgaon, Haryana**

Medanta – The Medicity is one of the largest multi-super specialty medical institutes in Gurgaon, a Town in the National Capital Region. Started by an eminent cardiac surgeon Dr. Naresh Trehan, the Institution has been envisioned to bring the highest standards of medical care to India along with clinical research, education and training.

Medanta is home to some of the finest doctors in the world, most of whom are pioneers in their specific areas & are celebrated for developing innovative and revolutionary procedures. Medanta has six centres of excellence that provide comprehensive and integrated healthcare services across various specialty, such as organ transplant, oncology, cardiac surgery, neurosurgery and more. Medanta has also been at the forefront of medical innovation and technology, with achievements such as 3D- printed titanium spine implants, stent retrievers for stroke treatment, the world's smallest pacemaker implantation and more. Medanta has also ranked as the best private hospital in India for three consecutive years in 2020, 2021 and 2023 by the week-Nielsen survey.

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### **2. Kokilaben – Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Mumbai, Maharashtra**

Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital is a top-most multi-specialty hospital with a space of 750 inpatient beds, providing exceptional medical services under the care of distinguished experts. The hospital became named after Kokilaben Ambani, wife of industrialist Dhirubhai Ambani, who started Reliance Industries. The hospital became operational in 2009 and has since achieved many milestones in the field of medicine. The hospital boasts of having the most significant no. of critical care beds in Mumbai, with 180 ICU beds & 240 independent clinics for consulting, with the capacity to handle over 9,000 outpatient consultations every day. The nationally accredited laboratory has high-tech instruments to carry out advanced molecular biology tests for accurate diagnosis. The hospital not only prides itself on its contemporary infrastructure and ultra-modern technology but also on having a Full Time Specialist System which ensures easy access and comprehensive use of resources to various specialists. The hospital has the first 3-room intra-operative MRI suite (IMRIS) in Asia, Asia's first EDGE Radio-surgery system from Varian Medical Systems, India's first Spine Surgery Suite featuring the O-arm, and many more. The hospital has also won several awards and accolades for its excellence in multispeciality, oncology, orthopedics, and neurology at national and international levels.



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### **3. Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurgaon**

Fortis Memorial Research Institute (FMRI) is a multi-specialty hospital in Gurugram, India. It is part of the Fortis Healthcare group, which operates over 30 hospitals across India and abroad. FMRI is accredited by JCI and NABH and offers several medical services, such as cardiology, neurology, oncology, gastroenterology, urology, orthopedics, and transplant surgery. FMRI is known for its excellence in clinical care, research, and innovation. The hospital has been the first in India to conduct a robot-assisted joint replacement surgery and the first in India to complete a left lateral donor hepatectomy. Since its inception, the hospital has won many awards, such as the Pharmacie De Qualite for Good Pharmacy Practices in 2019. FMRI has a team of over 300 doctors who are experts in their respective fields and have international experience and training. The hospital has state-of-the-art infrastructure and technology, such as 15 operating theatres, 105 ICU beds, a robotic surgery system, PET-CT scan, MRI, and cath lab. FMRI aims to provide world-class healthcare to its patients with compassion and empathy.

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### **4. Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi**

Indraprastha Apollo Hospital is one of the most renowned multi-specialty tertiary care hospitals in India. Situated in New Delhi, India, it has a capacity of 710 beds and offers 52 specialties under one roof. It is also the first hospital in India to be certified by the JCI four times in a row, which reflects its commitment to quality and safety standards. Some of the notable achievements of Indraprastha Apollo Hospital are:

- It performed the first pediatric liver transplant in India in 1998 and has one of the country's busiest liver and kidney transplant programs.
- It has the largest number of ICU beds in a private hospital in India and is equipped with the latest and best-in-class medical technologies like PET-MR, PET-CT, Da Vinci Robotic Surgery System, Brainlab Navigation System, Portable CT Scanner, NovalisTx, Tilting MRI, Cobalt-based HDR Brachytherapy, DSA Lab, Hyperbaric Chamber, Fibroscan, Endosonography, 3 Tesla MRI, 128 Slice CT scanner.
- It has a comprehensive cancer care center with advanced radiation oncology facilities like NovalisTx, ClinaciX, and HDR-Brachytherapy. It also performed the first total marrow irradiation procedure in India on a patient from Oman. It has a team of experienced and renowned doctors in various specialties like cardiology, cardiac surgery, neurology, neurosurgery, gastroenterology, hepatology, nephrology, urology, orthopedics, spine surgery, plastic surgery, fetal medicine, IVF, nuclear medicine, and more. It performed Asia's first simultaneous kidney-pancreas transplant on a 38-year-old patient, India's first successful combined cardiac and tracheal surgery on an 11-month-old baby from Oman, India's first simultaneous liver-intestine-pancreas transplant, and the world's most extensive artificial pulmonary valve implantation without surgery.

Indraprastha Apollo Hospital is a forerunner of the Apollo Hospitals Group that epitomizes the clinical excellence that the Apollo Group stands for.

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#### **5. Artemis Hospital, Gurgaon**

Artemis Hospital is one of the leading multi-specialty hospitals in Gurgaon, India. It was started in 2007 by the promoters of the Apollo Tyres Group and has been accredited by JCI and NABH for its quality standards and patient safety. It has a unit of highly qualified and experienced doctors, nurses, and paramedics who provide comprehensive care for various specialties such as cardiology, neurology, oncology, orthopedics, gastroenterology, urology, nephrology, gynecology, pediatrics, etc.

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#### **6. Gleneagle Global Health City, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**

Gleneagles Global Health City, India, is a renowned hospital with world-class treatment, best-in-class infrastructure, and an unmatched commitment to clinical excellence. The hospital is situated in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It is the largest facility of Gleneagles Global Hospitals Group, a part of IHH Healthcare, a leading premium integrated medical provider with a network of 80 hospitals in 10 countries. The hospital has many specialties, including HPB and liver, Oncology, Cardiology, Orthopaedics, Neurology, Gastroenterology, Uterine Transplant, and many more. The hospital is Asia's most trusted and leading Multi-Organ Transplant Centre, performing over 1,000 successful liver transplants. The hospital has also undertaken several path-breaking procedures in Neurology, Heart, Lung, and Kidney.

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**Location:** Chennai, India

**Website:** <https://www.gleneaglesglobalhospitals.com/>

#### **7. Nanavati Super Specialty Hospital, Mumbai, Maharashtra**

Nanavati Super Specialty Hospital, Mumbai, India, is one of the leading healthcare institutions in the country, with a history of 70 years of excellence and innovation. The hospital was introduced by the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, in 1950 and has served the people with compassion and efficiency ever since. The hospital has 350 beds, 55 specialty departments, 350+ eminent consultants, 100 resident doctors, 475 nursing staff, and 1500 employees. It offers many services in every field of modern medicine and health care. The hospital has state-of-the-art technology and infrastructure, such as a 3 Tesla 32 channel wide bore Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner with MR guided Focused Ultrasound Surgery (MRgFUS), and High-Intensity-Focused-Ultrasound, 64 slice Positron Emission Tomography-Computed Tomography (PET CT) with cardiac capability.

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#### **8. Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road, Bangalore, Karnataka**

Manipal Hospital, located on Old Airport Road in Bangalore, India, is one of the leading multispeciality hospitals in the country. It offers various medical services, from primary care to quaternary care, across specialties such as cardiology, oncology, orthopedics, neurology, gastroenterology, pediatrics, and more. It is part of the Manipal Education and Medical Group (MEMG), which has a

legacy of over six decades in education and healthcare. Manipal Hospital Old Airport Road has achieved many milestones in its journey of providing quality and affordable healthcare to everyone.

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#### **9. Apollo Hospital, Grems Road, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**

Apollo Hospitals, Grems Road, is one of the best multi-specialty hospitals in Chennai, India. It started in 1983 and has over 60 departments, offering advanced healthcare services in various fields such as cardiology, orthopedics, neurosciences, cancer care, transplant, etc.

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**Website:** <https://www.manipalhospitals.com/>

#### **10. Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket Delhi.**

Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, India, is one of the leading healthcare providers in the country. It has a capacity of over 500 beds & offers a wide range of services across 38 specialties, including Cardiac, Oncology, Neurosciences, Liver Transplant, Orthopedics, and more.

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