



Hindu Cremation

The Agreement between Vienna Crematorium Administration office, Vienna

And

Hindu Mandir Association

1. As per Hindu customs, the cremation will take place on the same day as the funeral arranged in the funeral hall, **at no extra cost**.
2. On request only, the family members of the departed person would be allowed to be present during the bath and the dressing up of the body for cremation.
3. The normal farewell ceremony before the cremation has a duration of twenty to thirty minutes. This is too short a time specially when reading of obituaries, chanting of Mantras by the priest and giving the last ritual farewell to the departed one all done in the proper manner. This ceremony time has now been agreed upon as **one hour**. A prior notice to the funeral administration is imperative to avoid any clashing with other funerals on that day.
4. A Hindu ritual that an earthen water-pot with a flow of water around the dead body is allowed if we can ensure that in the crematorium water will not cause an adverse accident with electric equipments (light-connections, electric lights etc.) that are provided there. The priest has to ensure that only the absolute minimum quantity of water is used. Any damages caused due to this ritual, will have to be paid to the crematorium.
5. The level of the coffin can be elevated to a convenient height as per the priest's wishes.
6. We would be allowed to put ghee, butter and other food products in the coffin that are provided to the departed one. However, there should **NOT** be any packing material like glass, cartons or plastic placed there.
7. A music-system will be provided to play spiritual songs as a part of the funeral services.
8. A stand for the photo of the deceased would be provided on request and at a minimum cost (about 20 EUR).
9. In case we need to make a photo presentation on screen in connection with the departed one, a screen will be provided at an extra cost.

10. The ashes of the deceased will be given to the family only on the recommendation of the Indian embassy and the assurance that the ashes will be taken out of the country. The ashes can be collected within a month sealed in an aluminium container.
11. Two family members and the priest (altogether three) will be allowed to accompany the coffin until the threshold of the crematorium to allow a last symbolic push to the coffin to the fire. This is the most vital point of the agreement.
12. Please note that we cannot immerse the ashes of the departed in the Austrian waters. **The state of Vienna does not permit immersion of ashes in Austrian waters.**
13. In order to have a Hindu funeral, we have to get in touch with the Customer Service of Vienna Crematorium over Mrs. Anita Sahni or Mr. Nilesch Nathwani. This will ensure that we are given a guaranteed Hindu funeral, as it requires certain preparatory work.

Hindu Mandir Association
June, 2011