



Small Group Departure - Affordable India

Historical & Cultural India

17 days / 16 nights
from **\$4419***
per person twin share

**Includes
Airlines
ex Australia
& 27 meals**

Departs ex Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide & Perth
03 & 28 Feb; 23 Mar; 11 Apr; 19 Sep; 17 Oct; 14 Nov 2012

**Mumbai – Aurangabad – Ajanta Caves – Ellora Caves – Bijapur
Badami – Hospet – Hampi – Hopset – Hassan – Mysore – Bangalore**

India has seen many great empires come and go. This tour takes you into the heart of the country exploring the Western and Deccan Plateau with its marvellous legacy of architectural masterpieces..

Itinerary

Day 1: Depart Australia. Fly from Australia to Mumbai via Singapore.

Day 2: Arrive Mumbai. Arrive to vibrant Mumbai, met and transferred to the hotel for 2 nights accommodation.

Accommodation: Fariyas Hotel, Mumbai (or similar) - 2 nights

Day 3: Mumbai. Today commence a sightseeing tour of Mumbai with a boat excursion to Gharapuri Island to visit the 600 A.D. old Elephanta Caves. Later, visit the Gateway of India, drive through the Marine Drive to visit the hanging Garden and Dhobi Ghat. Explore the famous Crawford Bazaar before returning back to the hotel. (B,D)

Day 4: Mumbai – Aurangabad. Met and transferred to board the morning express train to Aurangabad. Afternoon enjoy city sightseeing tour and visit Bibi-Ka-Maqbara, Daulatabda Fort, once a prime fortress of many successive dynasties in the Deccan and Jama Masjid, the Chand Minar, Elephant Tank and Chini Mahal or Chinese palace. (B,D)

Accommodation: Rama International Hotel, Aurangabad (or similar) – 3 nights

Day 5: Ajanta Cave Excursion. Enjoy an excursion to the famous Ajanta Caves a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The series of rock cut caves are located deep within the Sahyadri hills and depict the story of Buddhism that prevailed here during 200 B.C. to 650 A.D. The caves include paintings and sculptures considered to be masterpieces of both Buddhist religious art (which depict the Jataka tales) as well as frescos which are reminiscent of the Sigiriya paintings in Sri Lanka. Return to the hotel. (B,D)

Day 6: Ellora Cave Excursion. Proceed for yet another day excursion, this day towards Ellora Caves. Ellora represents the epitome of Indian rock-cut architecture. After a magnificent day return to the hotel. (B,D)

Day 7: Aurangabad – Bijapur. Travel south towards Bijapur, yet another very historical town famous for its architecture, monuments and the World famous Gol Gumbaz build by Adil Shahi Dynasty also known as Bijapur Sultanate between 15th and the 17th Century. The evening is free at leisure. (B,D)

Accommodation: Hotel Shashinag Residency, Bijapur (or similar) – 1 night

Day 8: Bijapur – Badami. Enjoy a city sightseeing tour of Bijapur with a visit to Gol Gumbaz before continuing the trip to Badami another fascinating town, formerly known as Vatapi, is a taluk in the Bagalkot district of Karnataka, India. (B,D)

Accommodation: Badami Court, Badami (or similar) – 2 nights

Day 9: Badami Sightseeing. Proceed for a city sightseeing tour of this small village, once the capital city of Chalukyas Empire. Visit the Northern Fort, Pattadakal and witness a unique blend of patterns. (B,D)

Day 10: Badami – Hospet. En-route visit Chalukyas the oldest of Hindu dynasty, a lesser known wonder of India. The rock cut temples contain some outstanding sculptures, as do the temples in Paddatakal and Aihole. Stay for two nights in Hospet. (B,D)

Accommodation: Malligi Hotel, Hospet (or similar) – 2 nights



Shiva, Bangalore

Prices per person twin share	
Departs	ex Syd, Mel, Bne, Adl & Per
03 & 28 Feb; 23 Mar; 11 Apr 2012	\$4419*
19 Sep; 17 Oct; 14 Nov 2012	\$4569*

Price includes all pre-paid taxes

→ Call about our airfares ex other Australian cities →

Price Includes:

- Return economy class airfares from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth to Mumbai and Bangalore via Singapore with Singapore Airlines.
- Accommodation, tours, meals and transfers as indicated in the itinerary.
- Services of local English speaking tour guide.
- All entry fees to monuments.
- 1 Tonga ride, 1 Boat ride.
- Train ticket from Mumbai to Aurangabad.
- All collectable taxes.
- Pre-paid airport taxes. Subject to alteration until final payment has been received by our office.

Note:

- Single supplement available on application. Ask about our companion register.
- *Prices are correct at time of printing but are subject to availability, currency fluctuations, surcharges and are only guaranteed when paid in full.
- Minimum of 2 passengers required for tour to be guaranteed.



**Adventure
Destinations**

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Day 11: Hampi Excursion. Today take a short excursion to Hampi, an ancient capital of the Vijayanagara Empire. The site is set in one of the most dramatic landscape settings, a boulder-strewn site with temples and palaces nestled in between. Enjoy a Tonga ride from the entrance and explore this magnificent 14th Century palace. Explore the local bazaars in the evening and witness the living museum of India's past glory. (B,D)

Day 12: Hospet - Hassan. Proceed towards Hassan. Afternoon is free at leisure to relax or explore this small town which had been under the control of Hoysalas from 11th to the 13th Century A.D. (B, D)
Accommodation: Southern Star Hotel, Hassan (or similar) - 1 night

Day 13: Hassan - Mysore. South of Hampi discover yet another great civilization of the Hoysalas, known to be the masters of detailed sculptures. A visit to the temples at Belur, Halebid and Somnathpur, also a visit to the great Jain monument at Sarvanabelgola before arriving in Mysore. (B, D)
Accommodation: Pai Vista Hotel, Mysore (or similar) - 2 nights

Day 14: Mysore Sightseeing. Today enjoy the city sightseeing tour of Mysore which still preserves its age old glory in its majestic palaces, forts, gardens and world famous its exotic sandalwood oils, rosewood carved products and Mysore silk saris. Visit the Chamundi hill to see a panoramic view of Mysore and palace of Maharaja. Take a walk in Brindavan Garden and enjoy the spectacular "Musical fountains". (B, D)

Day 15: Mysore - Bangalore. Travel to the last destination in the itinerary, to travel to Bangalore. Enjoy a city sightseeing tour in the afternoon of this multi cultural city and visit the Vidhan Sudha, Botanic Garden and Nandi Bull. Evening is kept free for you to explore the local bazaars and local handicrafts shops and shop for some souvenirs. (B,D)
Accommodation: Radha Hometel Hotel, Bangalore (or similar) - 1 night

Day 16: Bangalore - Australia. Met and transferred to the airport for the departure flight to Australia, via Singapore. (B)

Day 17: Arrive Australia



Ajanta Caves



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