



HARVARD

Alumni Association

INDIA: SPLENDORS OF THE SOUTH

MARCH 8-23, 2017

Travel to lesser-explored southern India on this 16-day journey. Begin in Mumbai with visits to Mahatma Gandhi's headquarters and Dharavi, the "city within a city." Visit Coorg and learn about the region's coffee industry. Take a safari in search of the Bengal Tiger at Nagarhole National Park before visiting Mysore to see its breathtaking palace illuminated at night. Travel to Bangalore, the "Silicon Valley" of India, then fly to the port city of Kochi for a cruise along the canals of the Arabian Sea. End your journey back at Kochi and enjoy cultural performances of the region. Optional pre-tour extension to Delhi and Agra and post-tour extension to Sri Lanka.

GROUP SIZE: Up to 24 guests

PRICING (per person):

Double occupancy, air included: \$5,674 (From Boston, New York, or Washington, DC)

Double occupancy, land only: \$4,595

Single Supplement: \$1,595

SCHEDULE BY DAY

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

DEPART U.S. FOR MUMBAI, INDIA

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

ARRIVE IN MUMBAI

Arrive in Mumbai late this evening and transfer directly to the hotel.

Overnight: *Taj Mahal Palace*

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

MUMBAI

Begin your exploration of India's most populous city at the Gateway of India monument, an impressive arch built by the British to serve as a ceremonial entrance to the country. Continue to the Mani Bhawan, Gandhi's headquarters in Mumbai. After lunch, tour the acclaimed Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum with collections of art, archaeology, and natural history. End the day with a welcome dinner.

Overnight: *Taj Mahal Palace (B,L,D)*

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

MUMBAI

Embark on an excursion to Dharavi, Mumbai's giant slum considered a "city within a city," with approximately 800,000 inhabitants living in less than a square mile area. Cottage industries and small businesses thrive here. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit iconic Crawford Market, the Raj-era arcade prized for its architecture. Dinner is on your own in this melting pot city where you will find Indian and international cuisine to suit any taste.

Overnight: *Taj Mahal Palace (B,L)*

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

MUMBAI/MANGALORE/COORG

Early this morning, transfer to the airport for the flight to Mangalore, where we board a motorcoach for the four-hour drive to Coorg, stopping for a picnic lunch en route. Set on a 300-acre working coffee and spice plantation, the Orange County Resort has a dramatic backdrop of forest and the Kaveri River. Before dinner at our hotel this evening, take a guided walk of the extensive grounds and attend a discussion about the property with the resident naturalist.

Overnight: *Orange County Resort, Coorg (B,L,D)*

MONDAY, MARCH 13

COORG

On this morning's visit to a nearby village, encounter everyday life up close as you see a traditional coffee pour and experience the round "coracle" boats used by local fishermen.

Back at the resort this afternoon, take a walking tour of the plantation and learn about the time-honored "monsooning" process applied to the coffee beans harvested here. After dinner, enjoy a cultural dance performance.

Overnight: *Orange County Resort, Coorg (B,L,D)*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

COORG/KABINI

Early this morning, set out on a bird watching walk to see some of the 300 species – 25% of all India's bird species – found here. Depart the Coorg resort for Nagarhole National Park, whose abundant wildlife, including leopard, Indian bison, wild dog, deer, antelope, and hyena make it one of India's finest preserves. After lunch at your eco-lodge, set out on a boat safari that takes in some of Nagarhole's 247 square miles. Dine at the lodge tonight.

Overnight: *Orange County Resort, Kabini (B,L,D)*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

KABINI

This morning, embark on a canter safari through Nagarhole in search of wildlife. Return to the lodge for lunch and to see Orange County's Butterfly Park. Later, drive through the rural landscape to the village of Gundathur for a visit with a local family in their home. After dinner, take a nature walk to witness the nocturnal birds and reptiles in their natural habitats.

Overnight: *Orange County Resort, Kabini (B,L,D)*

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

KABINI/MYSORE

This morning, choose to participate in either a hike or a visit to a nearby tribal village. After lunch, depart for Mysore, stopping en route to visit the river island town of Srirangapatna, with its celebrated 9th-century Hindu Ringanatha Temple. Enjoy dinner in Mysore this evening.

Overnight: *Hotel Radisson Blu (B,L,D)*

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

MYSORE

Travel outside of Mysore to the Chamundi Hills, site of the Chamundeshwari Temple. Next, visit the Palace of Mysore to witness a dazzling array of carvings, chandeliers, mosaics, stained glass, paintings, and frescoes. Continue to a workshop to see how sandalwood incense is made by hand. Enjoy lunch and the afternoon at leisure before dinner tonight at the hotel. Wander the local markets where you will find Mysore's renowned silk saris and ties, spices, and sandalwood crafts, or perhaps visit one of the city's museums or art galleries.

Overnight: *Hotel Radisson Blu (B,D)*

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

MYSORE/BANGALORE

Leaving Mysore this morning, travel by coach to Bangalore, the "Silicon Valley" of India. Upon arrival, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, then set out on an orientation tour of this

bustling city, said to have more engineers per capita than any other. Visit Bangalore Palace, then proceed to the impressive Vidhan Soudha, the chambers of the state legislature. Dinner is on your own in this cosmopolitan city with its diverse culinary scene.

Overnight: *Taj Gateway (B,L)*

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

BANGALORE/KOCHI/HOUSEBOAT CRUISE

Fly to the port city Kochi, the first of Europe's colonies in India, and eat lunch at a local restaurant. Late afternoon, board your well-appointed houseboat and begin a leisurely cruise of the backwater canals of the Arabian Sea, a distinctive region whose beauty and tranquility have earned it the sobriquet "God's own country." Dine aboard the vessel tonight.

Overnight: *Kerala Houseboat (B,L,D)*

MONDAY, MARCH 20

HOUSEBOAT CRUISE

Experience Indian life up close as you cruise past small farms and villages, old temples, and churches, stopping on occasion to go ashore. Along the way, observe traditional livelihoods such as fish farming or toddy tapping – the extraction of pine sap for production of palm wine, or toddy. All meals today are served on board the houseboat.

Overnight: *Kerala Houseboat (B,L,D)*

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

KOCHI

Disembark this morning and return to Kochi, "Queen of the Arabian Sea." Enjoy lunch on your own in the southern state of Kerala's commercial capital. This afternoon, take a walking tour of the well-preserved European quarter, Fort Kochi, with its mix of Portuguese, Dutch, and British colonial houses and historic buildings. Attend a performance of Kathakali dance, a traditional Kerala art form. Celebrate your journey with a farewell dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: *Vivanta by Taj, Taj Malabar (B,D)*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

KOCHI

This morning's walking tour further reveals Kochi's multi-layered past, a rich brew of Arab, Portuguese, British, and Dutch influences. Eat lunch at local restaurant, followed by time at leisure to explore Kochi's well-preserved Old Town. Enjoy a sunset harbor cruise before dinner on your own.

Overnight: *Vivanta by Taj, Taj Malabar (B,L)*

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

DEPART FOR U.S.

Early this morning, depart for the airport and your return flight home. Those embarking on the Sri Lanka post-tour extension will fly to Colombo.

Optional Pre-Tour Extension: Delhi & Agra

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

DEPART U.S. FOR DELHI, INDIA

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

ARRIVE IN DELHI

Spend today en route to Delhi, India's capital and third largest city. As guests' arrival times may vary greatly, there are no group activities or meals planned.

Overnight: *ITC Sheraton*

MONDAY, MARCH 6

DELHI

Begin your tour of Old Delhi with a visit to India's largest mosque, the marble Jama Masjid, commissioned by Emperor Shah Jahan, builder of the Taj Mahal. Continue with a rickshaw ride through bustling Chandni Chowk market, one of Delhi's oldest and busiest. After lunch at a local restaurant, return to the New Delhi district to see Qutab Minar, one of Delhi's most striking monuments, and the 16th-century Tomb of Humayun. Enjoy dinner at the hotel tonight.

Overnight: *ITC Sheraton (B,L,D)*

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

DELHI/AGRA

Set out on a motorcoach journey to Agra. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting

Itimadud-Daulah, the mausoleum that inspired the Taj Mahal. Late this afternoon, watch the sun set over the Taj Mahal from Mehtab Bagh garden. Dinner tonight is on your own.

Overnight: *ITC Mughal (B,L)*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

AGRA

Embark on a sunrise tour of the Taj Mahal, the magnificent tomb built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz. After this singular experience, return to the hotel for breakfast and the morning at leisure. After lunch on your own, visit the imposing Agra Fort complex that for generations served as the seat of Mughal power. Shah Jahan's son deposed him and imprisoned him here in the fort during his final years, reportedly in a tower with a view of the Taj Mahal. Return to the hotel for dinner tonight.

Overnight: *ITC Mughal (B,D)*

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

AGRA/DELHI/MUMBAI

This morning transfer to the airport, stopping en route for lunch at a local restaurant, and fly to Mumbai. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel to meet your Odysseys Unlimited tour director and fellow travelers. *(B,L)*

Optional Post-Tour Extension: Sri Lanka

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

KOCHI/COLOMBO/KANDY, SRI LANKA

This morning, fly to Colombo, the island's capital and largest city. Upon arrival, travel by motorcoach for three hours to Kandy, stopping en route for lunch. In Kandy, enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure to relax; tonight dine together at the hotel.

Overnight: *Cinnamon Citadel (B,L,D)*

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

KANDY

Begin this morning with an excursion to a plantation that grows the esteemed Ceylon tea introduced by the British. Learn about the process of manufacturing tea, and enjoy a tasting of this prized export. We proceed next to Embekke Devalaya, a 14th-century temple constructed entirely of wood. The exquisite carvings in the main hall exemplify this Sri Lankan art form at its finest. After lunch on your own, witness a cultural show featuring highly stylized traditional Sri Lankan dancing. Enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: *Cinnamon Citadel (B,D)*

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

KANDY

This morning, visit an iconic Buddhist religious site: the Temple of the Tooth Relic, which

enshrines Buddha's tooth – Sri Lanka's greatest cultural treasure. Next, tour Peradeniya Botanical Gardens, with 4,000 plant species including a renowned orchid collection and a tremendous Javan fig tree. Take a city tour of Kandy, sacred to Buddhists and dear to Sri Lankans as the last seat of the island's royalty. Drive around Kandy Lake and tour Kandy's lively bazaar and a lapidary to witness the island's prized gemstones being cut. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Lunch is on your own and dinner is at the hotel tonight.

Overnight: *Cinnamon Citadel (B,D)*

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

KANDY/PINNAWALA/COLOMBO

En route to Colombo this morning, visit the elephant orphanage in Pinnawala, where the largest herd of captive elephants in the world roams. After this unique experience, journey by coach to Colombo and enjoy lunch on your own before a tour of the city. Drive through the business district known as "The Fort," pass Pettah Market with its myriad shops, and experience Colombo's heritage of religious tolerance with a visit to a Hindu temple and a Wolveendaal Dutch Church. Tonight, enjoy a final dinner in Sri Lanka together.

Overnight: *Taj Samudra (B,D)*

MONDAY, MARCH 27

COLOMBO/DEPART FOR U.S.

Very early this morning, depart for the airport and your return flight home. (B)