

**WONDERS OF SOUTHWEST INDIA**  
**Albuquerque International Association Trip Abroad**  
**November 10-22, 2019**

**DESCRIPTION**

AIA is returning to India, this time to the vibrant West Coast to explore elaborately carved cave temples, some more than 2,000 years old, marvel at lush scenery and examine the rich interplay of cultures, including Persian and European influences. Accompanied by in-country experts in art, history and religion, we will begin at Mumbai (formerly Bombay), India's most populous city, headquarters of the world's largest film industry and hub of three UNESCO World Heritage Sites. From there, we will fly to Aurangabad, renowned for its ancient cave temples sacred to the Hindu, Buddhist and Jain religions and for an exquisite tomb known as the "Mini Taj Mahal." Our journey south will bring us first to the palace and gardens of Mysore, then to the temples of Belur and Halebid and the picturesque stone fort of Chitradurg. Afterward, we will take in the medieval opulence of Hampi, with its lively bazaar. Then we will travel by train to Goa, with its fascinating Portuguese Christian heritage, distinctive cuisine and world-famous beaches. A morning flight will take us back to Mumbai in ample time to make connections home.

**TOUR ITINERARY**

**Day 00, Sunday, November 10**

Arrive in Mumbai. Transport provided to hotel at 3:00 p.m. for those arriving in afternoon.

**Day 01, Monday, November 11**

Tour of Film City, Bollywood, followed by full tour briefing over lunch at hotel. City tour of Mumbai in afternoon. (B, L)

**Day 02, Tuesday, November 12**

Boat trip to Elephanta Cave Temples, dating to the 7<sup>th</sup> Century CE and famed for magnificent statues depicting the three manifestations of Shiva. Gala welcome dinner at world-famous Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, embodying the elegance of the Raj. (B, L, D)

**Day 03, Wednesday, November 13**

Flight to Aurangabad, followed by visit to Ellora Caves, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Century cave temples sacred to Hindu, Buddhist and Jain religions. Afternoon visit to Daulatabad Fort, a Hindu stronghold. (B, L)

**Day 04, Thursday, November 14**

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site Ajanta Cave Temples, parts of which date to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Century BCE. Also visit Bibi ka Maqbara, the Mughal gardens and lovely tomb known as the "Mini Taj Mahal." (B, L)

**Day 05, Friday, November 15**

Flight from Aurangabad to Bangalore, followed by coach to Mysore. Afternoon free. (B, L)

**Day 06, Saturday, November 16**

Full day of guided sightseeing: breathtaking Chamundai Hill, opulent and eclectic Mysore Palace, Brindavan Garden, famous for its musical fountains. (B, L)

**Day 07, Sunday, November 17**

Coach to Hassan, stopping to visit 12<sup>th</sup> Century Channekeshava Temple at Belur and Hoysaleswara Temple in Halebid. (B, L, D)

**Day 08, Monday, November 18**

Coach to Hampi, stopping to visit picturesque Chitradurga and its stone fort. (B, L)

**Day 09, Tuesday, November 19**

Tour Hampi, one of the world's richest cities in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries and famed for its vibrant bazaar. (B, L)

**Day 10, Wednesday, November 20**

Coach to Hospet followed by train to Goa and transfer to beach resort. (B, L)

**Day 11, Thursday, November 21**

Full day of sightseeing in Goa, absorbing the rich blend of Portuguese Christian and Hindu cultures. Time allowed to enjoy one of Goa's famous beaches. Gala Farewell Dinner. (B, L, D)

**Day 12, Friday, November 22**

Morning flight to Mumbai in ample time to make afternoon connections to the U.S. or elsewhere.

**FURTHER DETAILS**

Please note: Participation in the AIA tour is limited to AIA members in good standing as of 2018 and throughout 2019. Participants must possess a passport valid for at least six months following the end of the trip. Participants must be responsible for securing their own visas, required of all U.S. visitors to India; this can now be done electronically without sending in the passport (through Trivisa for \$144). All participants must have travel health insurance that includes medical evacuation; many AIA members have used United Health.

The AIA tour will begin and end in Mumbai. Participants will be responsible for booking and paying for their own international air travel to and from Mumbai. For those flying directly from Albuquerque, Emirates, rated by *Travel & Leisure* as #2 in the world for comfort and service, offers an efficient, reasonable itinerary, 27 hours outbound, 31 hours return, involving a nonstop JetBlue flight to New York JFK, connecting to a nonstop to Dubai and another nonstop to Mumbai. As of September 19, 2018, the roundtrip price is \$1,288 for economy. Passengers would leave Albuquerque at midnight on Friday, November 8, and arrive in Mumbai at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 10: On the return, the nonstop to Dubai leaves Mumbai Friday, November 22, at 4:15 p.m., with the connecting JetBlue flight arriving in Albuquerque at 11:09 p.m. the same day. Because these dates are more than a year away, exact prices and schedules may change. Other carriers offer flights arriving in the early hours of the following day (e.g., Monday if departing Albuquerque at midnight Friday).

Tour Price: \$3,500 per person double occupancy (single supplement: \$798)

Note: To secure a place on the trip, participants must make an initial payment to AIA of \$1,500 per person by January 11, 2019. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Hotels: Four star throughout, including beach resort in Goa (3 nights Mumbai, 2 nights Aurangabad, 2 nights Mysore, 1 night Hassan, 2 nights Hampi, 2 nights Goa)

Included: All transport within India: private air-conditioned coach, rail, in-country air, ground transit to and from hotels

Meals: all breakfasts and lunches, three dinners

Bottled water and soft drinks on bus

Bottled water and one beer or soft drink with lunches

Admissions, fees for guides, gratuities for guides and drivers

**AIA GROUP MEETING (#1) – December 6, 2018, 5:00 – 6:00 pm, at the Community Room at the Erna Ferguson Library (on San Mateo between Montgomery and Comanche**

Please send an e-mail to [info@abqinterrational.org](mailto:info@abqinterrational.org), if interested