

# SOUTHERN SAGA

Mumbai \* Chennai \* Cochin \* Houseboat \* Cochin

Bangalore \* Mysore \* Bangalore \* Mumbai

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DAY 01

ARRIVE MUMBAI

BY: INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

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You will arrive at Mumbai's International Airport. Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, a representative will meet you as you EXIT the ARRIVALS TERMINAL building after which you would be transferred to your hotel.

Upon arrival at the hotel, proceed for check-in at the hotel.

Bombay (as it was called earlier) was once a group of seven islands whose inhabitants, the Kolis, have given the city its Indian name, MUMBAI, after their goddess, Mother Mumbai. Bombay is a city of paradoxes: renowned as the country's financial nerve center, it is an important center of theatre, art, music and classical dance.

Overnight at the hotel.

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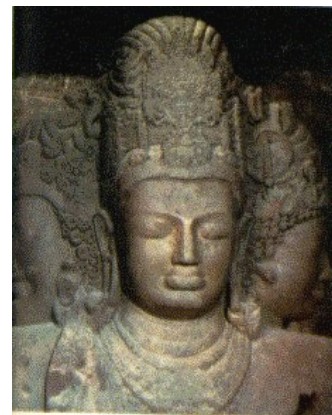
DAY 02

MUMBAI

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After buffet breakfast at the hotel you will proceed to Gateway to India to board motor-boat for the tour of Elephanta Caves.

**Elephanta Island (closed on Mondays)** was known in ancient times as "Gharapuri" or The Place of Caves. The Portuguese took possession of the island and named it Elephanta after the great statue which they found on the seashore. There are seven caves of which the most important is the Mahesha-Murti Cave. The main body of the cave, excluding the porticoes on the three open sides and the back aisle, is 27 m square and is supported by rows of six columns. The gigantic figures of Dvarapalas, or doorkeepers are very impressive. The cave temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, was excavated some time in the 8th century by the Rashtrakuta Kings who ruled the area between AD 757-973. Elephanta closely follows the pattern of the Dumar Lena cave in Ellora.



After the visit return to Gateway of India by motorboat and proceed for half day city tour.

The tour starts from the **Gateway of India**. Gateway of India is the landmark of Bombay, which, was before the advent of air travel, the only gateway to India. It was built to commemorate the visit of King George and Queen Mary to India in 1911. You will be then driven along **Marine Drive**, the sea - Front Boulevard. It is also known as the Queen's



Necklace as in the evening, the breeze from the Arabian Sea comes over Marine Drive and as the streetlights on this U-shaped road light up, the view from south Bombay's skyscrapers or from the exclusive residential area, is that of a Queen's Necklace. Your first stop will be the **Jain Temples**, built of marble and dedicated to the first Jain Tirthankara. From the temples you will be driven along

**Malabar Hill** via the **Tower of Silence** - a round stone construction on which Parsis place their dead to be eaten by the vultures and **Hanging Gardens** which is built over Bombay's reservoir. From here one can get a panoramic view of picturesque Marine Drive. From Malabar Hill you will be driven to the **Dhobi Ghats** a huge open-air laundry, which makes an interesting viewing. Continue to **Mani Bhawan** (Gandhi Memorial), the house where the Father of the Nation stayed on his early visits to the city. The room, in which Gandhi stayed, preserved as it was, and the scenes of Gandhi's life in photographs and models are of special interest.

Overnight at the hotel

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### DAY 03 MUMBAI - CHENNAI

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After buffet breakfast at the hotel, a representative will transfer you to Airport to board your flight to Chennai.

Proposed flights – Can Change depending on availability

Departure: Mumbai at: 0900 Hours By: 9W 322 (JET AIRWAYS)

Arrive: Chennai at: 1045 Hours

A representative will meet you upon arrival at Chennai airport & transfer you to your hotel. Arrive and proceed for check in.

Upon arrival, proceed for check-in at the hotel.

**Chennai** formerly known as Madras is the capital city of Tamil Nadu state and is the fourth largest metro city in India. The city grew up around the English settlement of Fort Saint George and gradually absorbed the surrounding towns and villages. However, despite the strong British influence, Chennai has retained its traditional Tamil Hindu culture and effectively blended it with

the foreign influence. The city is widely spread in about 180 Sq. Kms. It is a major trade center, being well linked by road, rail and air to important cities besides being a seaport. Compared to the other major metros of India, it is far less congested and polluted.

Afternoon, You will start your city tour with the visit of British outpost in India - **Fort St. George** and the commercial center, George Town. Visit the Fort house and the museum housing a vast collection of portraits, regimental flags, weapons, coins minted by the East India Company, medals, letters written by figures such as Robert Clive.



From the British hold of center you will proceed to Mylapore, inhabited in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by the Portuguese, visit the San Thome Church. Continue to visit the Kapalesswarar temple - the biggest temple in Madras where you can watch the priest perform ritual `aarti' - a prayer invoking blessings of the Supreme Being. The tour ends at the Government State Museum and the National Art Gallery. The museum has section on mineralogy, geology, zoology and botany; displaying numerous skeletons of mammals, fish, reptiles, birds and then like. There is a gallery of musical instruments and one housing stamp collection. The two most important galleries are those displaying sculptures from Amaravati (in Andhra Pradesh) and the bronze sculptures respectively.

Overnight at the hotel.

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#### **DAY 04      CHENNAI – KANCHIPURAM – MAHABALIPURAM - CHENNAI**

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After buffet breakfast at the hotel you will **visit Kanchipuram** - known, as the Golden City of a Thousand Temples, is one of the oldest towns in India. It is famous for both its temples, many of them remarkably well preserved and for its hand-woven silks. Kanchipuram is one of the seven sacred cities of India and it is the only one associated with both Shiva and Vishnu. Visit Ekambareshwar Temple, Kailashnath Temple, Kamakshi Temple, the Vaikunthaperumal Temple, all built in the 7th and 8th centuries. With a weaving tradition dating back to the Pallava era (when silk was the royal cloth), Kanchipuram is justly famous for its particularly fine silk saris, embellished with stunning patterns. Visit the local homes of the weavers and watch them create magic out of silk thread into saris. Apart from the temples, you will also have an opportunity to visit the homes of traditional Kanchipuram weavers specializing in silk fabric.for a city tour.

After the tour you will be driven to Mahabalipuram.



After buffet breakfast at the hotel, you will proceed on a **sightseeing tour of Cochin City**. Proceed to **Mattancherry**, where you will visit the oldest **Jewish Synagogue (Closed on Fridays, Saturdays & Jewish Holidays)** in India, built in 1568, it was destroyed by the Portuguese and rebuilt by the Dutch a century later. In 1776 a wealthy Dutch Jewish trader, Ezekiel Rahabi added a clock tower and a exquisite Chinese Blue and



white porcelain floor tiles, each hand painted in a different design. Its fascinating interior includes 19th Century Belgian Chandeliers, a ladies gallery and an elegant brass pulpit. The Dutch Palace at Mattancherry was built in 1555 and its coronation hall and murals at Ramayana are noteworthy features.

From Jewish Synagogue you will visit **Chinese fishing nets**, the cantilevered fishing nets line the entrance to the harbour mouth. Chinese traders are believed to have originally introduced them in the 14th century although, today parts of the nets are known by Portuguese names.

From the Chinese fishing nets you will visit **St. Francis Church**, originally named after Santo Antonio and dedicated to him as the Patron Saint of Portugal, St. Francis Church is the first church to have been in the new European influenced tradition. Originally a wooden building was replaced by the present stone building. Vasco De Gamma died on the site in 1524 and was originally buried in the cemetery. 14 years later his body was removed to Portugal. The church was renamed St. Francis in 1663.

Evening you will visit a local theatre to watch **Kathakali dance performance**.

Kathakali represents a synthesis of all that is best in dance, drama and music and has been recognized by connoisseurs of art, the world over as a `total art form of immense sophistication and power'. It is the impression created by make-up and the costumes that make Kathakali a visual par excellence.



Return to your hotel after the dance performance.

Overnight at the hotel

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be driven to Alleppey where you will embark Houseboat a sojourn **Kettuvallams**, the House boats of Kerala, offers a panoramic view of one of the most picturesque aspects the God's Own Country. One can cruise in it through the palm-fringed backwaters, throughout a night in waxing moonlights. The lullaby of the waves and the dazzling delights of the moonlit night can be experienced by spending a couple of nights aboard the Kettuvallam. The traditional houseboat of Kerala is one of the most enduring images of the backwaters. These houseboats are converted version of the "Kuttanadan Kettuvallams".



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An onboard chef will be at your service. He will prepare local cuisines for you and you can also learn the same.

Overnight onboard houseboat

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## **DAY 08**                      **HOUSEBOAT – COCHIN - BANGALORE**

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After breakfast on the houseboat, disembark at Alleppey and drive to Cochin Airport to board flight departing to Bangalore.

Proposed flights – Can Change depending on availability

Departure: Cochin                      at: 1305 Hours                      By: 9W 526(JET AIRWAYS)

Arrive: Bangalore                      at: 1350 Hours

A representative will meet you upon arrival at Bangalore airport & you will, proceed for check-in at the hotel.

Built in the 16th century by the feudal lord, enlarged by the legendary Tipu Sultan and later laid out by the British, Bangalore is undoubtedly one of India's most gracious cities. The wide roads and open spaces, architectural landmarks and beautiful gardens lend it a deceptively unhurried appearance. But contrary to that, 'India's Silicon Valley' is one of Asia's fastest growing cities. Fortunately the gardens are still there as is the ambiance of a graceful, gracious township, a legacy of the Wodeyars, the erstwhile rulers of Mysore state. Its gardens, sprawling parks and tree-lined roads give it a green and fresh appearance. It has a pleasant climate nearly all the year round.

Your **afternoon city tour** of the garden city begins with a visit to **Lalbagh**, the botanical garden spread over 240 acres



and having a wide variety of exotic trees and plants. You will drive past The **Vidhan Sudha** which houses the State Legislative assembly and part of the secretariat and the **Tipu Sultan's Palace** constructed between 1781 - 1791 was once the summer residence of Tipu Sultan. Finally visit the **Bull Temple** believed to have been constructed in the 16th century, has been carved out of a single granite block. Also drive past, the **Maharaja Palace, Indian Institute of Science and the Public library**.

Return to the hotel after the tour.

Overnight at the hotel.

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## **DAY 09      BANGALORE - MYSORE**

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After buffet breakfast at the hotel, you will be driven to Mysore enroute visit Srirangapatnam(150 KMS/04 Hours).

Once the capital of a princely state, Mysore still carries on its placid shoulders the aura and glamour of palaces, the grandeur of festivals of times gone by, but all of it with a quiet, unhurried dignity. Mysore is often called the Jewel of Karnataka - its arts, culture, buildings, festivals, gardens and parks being the quintessence of the state's heritage.

Upon arrival, proceed for check-in at the hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.

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**DAY 10****MYSORE**

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After buffet breakfast at the hotel you will be driven for a half day excursion to **Somnathpur's Keshava Temple**.

Return to Mysore after the tour.

Afternoon proceed for a city tour of Mysore. Your infatuation with Mysore begins with the **Maharaja's Palace**, at the heart of the city. It is a veritable treasure trove of exquisite carvings and works of art from the world over. Proceed to the **Rajendra Art Gallery** has some remarkable selections of paintings by Raja Ravi Verma, **Nicholas Roerich** and **traditional paintings** in the Mysore style.

Later you will visit Brindavan Gardens.

Return to the hotel after the tour.

Overnight at the hotel.

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**DAY 11****MYSORE - BANGALORE - MUMBAI**

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After buffet breakfast at the hotel you will be driven from Mysore to Bangalore Airport to board flight departing to Mumbai.

Proposed flights – Can Change depending on availability

Departure: Bangalore                      at: 1345 Hours                      By: 9W 444 (JET AIRWAYS)

Arrival: Mumbai                                      at: 1525 Hours

Upon arrival, you will be met by a representative who will transfer you to the International Airport to board your flight back home.

\*\*\*\*\* **END OF TOUR** \*\*\*\*\*