

SURF & SAND

Mumbai * Cochin * Goa * Mumbai

DAY 01

ARRIVE MUMBAI

BY: INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

You will arrive early morning 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.

Today the cosmopolitan population of the city consists of people from all over the country. It is center of industry, commerce and foreign trade, a city of skyscrapers and huts (a result of too quick growth and inadequate accommodation), a city of milling crowds and vitality, a city on the move. A city steeped in tradition, and a rich historical past, it is yet a city where contemporary scientific and business practices flourish. A vibrant, colourful and busy metropolis, Bombay is the premier city in western India.

Overnight at the hotel

DAY 02

MUMBAI - COCHIN

After buffet breakfast at hotel, a representative will transfer you to airport to board flight departing for Cochin.

Proposed flights – Can Change depending on availability

Departure: Mumbai at: 1035 Hours By: 9W 401

Arrive: Cochin at: 1220 Hours

Upon arrival you will be met by a representative who will transfer you to hotel, where you will proceed for check-in

Kochi, or more familiarly, Cochin is a city of many parts. Around for a long, long time, Kochi played a pivotal role in the development of shipping and trade in the region. Kochi's prime location on the west coast, its fine bay and protected harbour made it popular with seafarers and merchant ships who made frequent stops to stock up on spices, coffee and wood, enroute to the rich markets of Europe and West Asia. And so down the ages, Kochi prospered as a busy port city and commercial centre. Its seafront is still extremely relevant to Cochin and to India: it houses a Naval Base and one of India's busiest ports. It's twin city, Ernakulum, is an important railhead and industrial centre.

Cochin's history is a bright tapestry - many coloured threads woven through centuries together present the fabric of the present. Its involvement with the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British are evident in the architecture of city buildings, the old durbar hall is the spice in the dish! Modern day Kochi may be a busy port and shipping centre but it has many attractions for ordinary tourists.

Afternoon will be free for independent activities.

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

DAY 03 COCHIN – ALLEPPEY - COCHIN

Following buffet breakfast at hotel, proceed for **sightseeing tour of Cochin** visiting Dutch Palace, Jewish Synagogue, Chinese Fishing net, ST. Francis Church & Museum of Kerala History.

Dutch Palace is also known as Mattancherry Palace built by the Portuguese and presented to the Raja of Cochin in 1555 AD. It acquired the present name after 1663 when the Dutch carried out extensions and repairs in the palace. AT no time did the Portuguese or Dutch stay here. Its interiors are decorated with murals from the Ramayana and there are some lively displays of royal costumes and palanquins. **(Timing: 1000 hrs to 17.00 hrs. Closed on Fridays and national holidays)**

Jewish Synagogue was built in 1568 AD. The Great Scrolls of the Old Testament, the copper plates in which the grants of privilege made by the Cochin rulers were recorded and the exquisite Chinese hand-painted tiles are of interest (**Timing: 1000 hrs to 1200 hrs and 1500 hrs to 1700 hrs. Closed on Sundays and Jewish Holidays**)



Chinese Fishing Nets - The Chinese Fishing net that line the sea-front and exhibit a mechanical method of catching fish by local fishermen in Fort Kochi. Said to have been brought from China by traders of Kubalai Khan's Court, they are used at high tide.

ST. Francis Church - the Protestant church was originally built by the Portuguese in 1510 AD and is believed to be the oldest church built by the Europeans in India. It is here the remains of the inveterate traveller, Vasco da Gamma were initially buried and 14 years later, his mortal remains were taken to Portugal.

Bolghatty Palace is situated in Bolghatty Island a narrow palm fringed Island easily accessible from the mainland. The Palace was built by the Dutch in 1744. Later, it became the seat of the British Resident and today this has been converted into a hotel run by KTDC.

In the afternoon, you will be **driven to Alleppey** (45 KMS/ 1 Hour & 15 Minutes). Where you will enjoy & have the true experience of backwaters surrounded by lush green palms.

Upon arrival, you will board your **motor boat cruise** and sail on the backwaters of Kerala for 02 hours overlooking the green & beautiful surroundings – a complete scenic beauty.

After the backwater cruise, you will be driven back to Cochin.

Overnight at hotel

DAY 04 COCHIN – GOA

After breakfast, a representative will transfer you to the airport in time to board your flight departing for Goa.

Proposed flights – Can Change depending on availability

Departure: Cochin at: 1545 Hours By: IC 575

Arrive: Goa at: 1655 Hours **(Operates Mon & Fri Only)**

Upon arrival, you will meet a representative who will transfer you to hotel, where you will proceed for check-in.

Goa, this drop of golden sun on the West coast of India is bestowed upon by innumerable gifts: picturesque landscape, sun drenched beaches, historic monuments, pleasant climate, culinary expertise and above all hospitable people. You can create your own kind of holiday at the Idyllic seaside stretches - sun bathing in quiet secluded spot or choosing the exhilarating thrills of parasailing, speed boating, water skiing, wind surfing and deep-sea diving.



Afternoon is at leisure

Overnight at hotel

DAY 05

GOA

After breakfast at your hotel, you will proceed for sightseeing tour of Goa, visit Goa is geographically divided into the North and South districts. The small and charming state capital, **Panaji**, lies on the southern bank of the Mandovi River in North Goa.

A lot of its Portuguese heritage still survives in the oldest part of the town - Fontanhas and Sao Tome, with old villas with wrought iron balconies looking down upon narrow cobbled streets and white washed churches in village squares.



Dominating the square on which it stands, is the Church of Immaculate Conception (1541 AD), Panaji's main place of worship for the Catholics, where, in medieval times, all sailors arriving from Portugal congregated for thanks giving mass for their safe passage. 9 km east along the river is the town of **Old Goa** – what once was the hub of Portugal's empire in the East and Far East. Virtually abandoned after the river silted up and the new capital was set up at Panaji in 1843, all that remains of this once grand city are half a dozen churches, cathedrals, a monastery and convent. Do visit the imposing **Se Cathedral of St. Catherine**, the largest church in Asia, which has 14 altars, an 80m long aisle and 5 bells including the Golden Bell, said to be one of the best in the world.

The late 16th century **Basilica of Bom Jesus** with its richly gilded altars is famous throughout the Catholic world. It is the venue for a pilgrimage for both Christians and Hindus who come to pay homage to the embalmed mortal remains of St. Francis Xavier enshrined in a silver casket since 1553. Also worth seeing, up on Holy Hill, are the Church of our Lady of the Rosary (one of the

oldest in Goa), and Church and Convent of Santa Monica, reputed to be amongst the largest convents in the Portuguese empire.

Afternoon return to your hotel

Rest of day free to relax at the beach

Overnight at the hotel



DAY 06

GOA – MUMBAI

BY: FLIGHT

After leisurely buffet breakfast at hotel, morning is at leisure.

Later in the afternoon a representative will transfer you to the airport to board flight for Mumbai.

Proposed flights – Can Change depending on availability

Departure: Goa at: 1615 hours by: 9W 474

Arrival: Mumbai at: 1715 hours

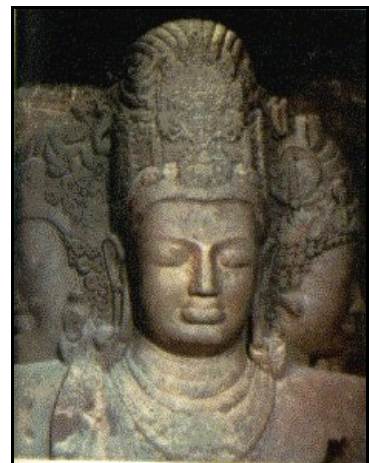
Upon arrival, a representative will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel, where you will proceed for Check-in.

Overnight at hotel

DAY 07

MUMBAI

After buffet breakfast at hotel, you will be driven to the **Gateway of India** to board the **motor launch**, which will take you to the famous **Elephanta Caves (closed on Mondays)**. It 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.



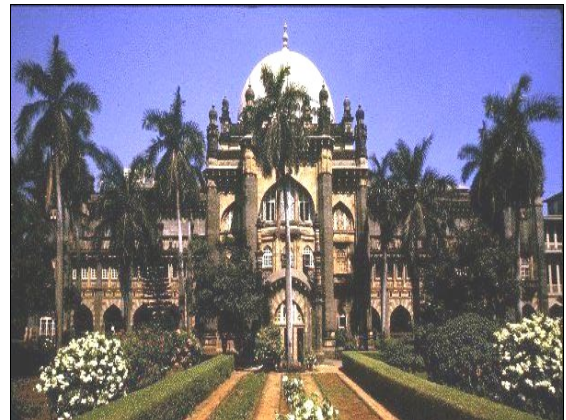
After visiting the caves you will proceed for the sightseeing tour of Mumbai.



Your tour starts from the **Gateway of India, which** is a major landmark of Bombay, and 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.

You will be also driven along Malabar Hill and **Hanging Gardens**, which is built over Bombay's reservoir. From here one can get a panoramic view of picturesque Marine Drive. 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. The last stop before proceeding to the hotel is the **Prince of Wales Museum (closed on Mondays)** – gothic and Moorish architecture in the striking confluence of styles that came to be known as Indo Saracenic. It boasts of a significant collection of Indus valley artifacts some of them dating back to more than 5000 years. Most impressive are the miniature paintings – nearly 2000 of them – from various stylistic schools of India.



After the city tour, return back to your hotel

Overnight at hotel

DAY 08

DEPART: MUMBAI

BY: INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

Today morning in time, a representative will meet you in the hotel lobby & transfer you to airport to board your flight back home / onward destination.



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