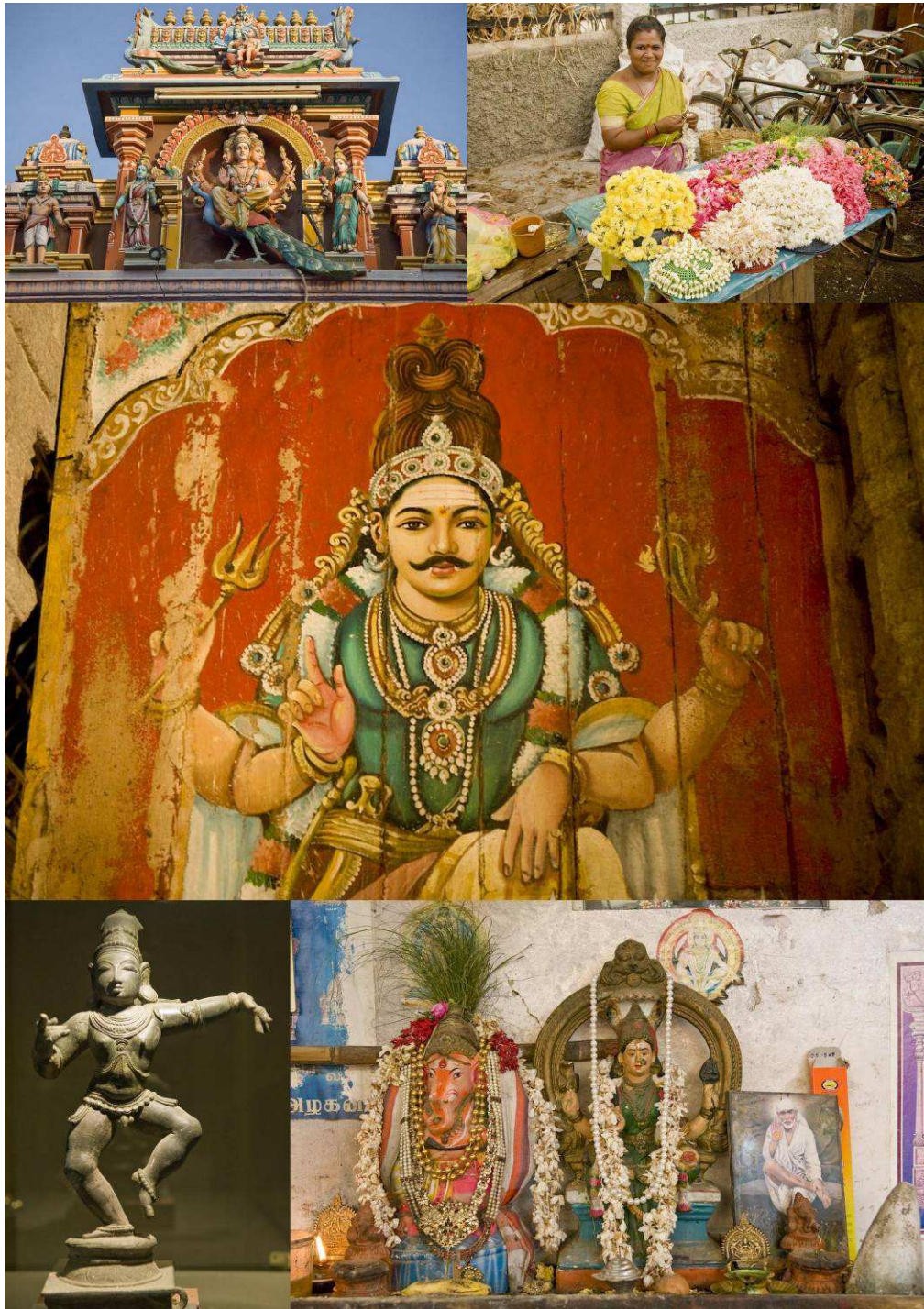


# PROTRAVEL INTERNATIONAL SOUTHERN INDIA

HYDERABAD - MYSORE - BELUR - HALEBID - HAMPI - BADAMI - GOA

JANUARY 21-JANUARY 31, 2012



# ROUTE MAP



# ITINERARY

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 21 – USA

Depart the United States on an overseas flight with a connection to Hyderabad, India.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 22 – HYDERABAD

Upon arrival in Hyderabad, and after clearing Immigration and Customs formalities, you will be met and transferred on a drive of about one hour to the *Taj Falaknuma Palace*. This palace in the sky, 2,000 feet above Hyderabad, was the former residence of the Nizam of Hyderabad. The rooms have been beautifully refurbished and lovingly restored, and we will revel in its opulence with Venetian chandeliers, rare furniture, grand marble staircases, priceless statues, objets d'art, stained-glass windows and the

Mughal, Rajasthani and Japanese gardens. The palace library, a replica of the one at Windsor Castle, is home to the rarest of manuscripts, and one of the most acclaimed collections of the Holy Quran in the country.

Our accommodations in Palace Rooms will be available from 12 noon. The balance of the day is at leisure.



## MONDAY, JANUARY 23 – HYDERABAD

In the late morning our tour guide will conduct a briefing on the days ahead. After an independent lunch we will explore Hyderabad, a medieval Deccani kingdom that rose to fame under the wealthy influence of the Croesus-rich Nizams. Its later subjugation by the British resulted in a legacy of fine buildings which, along with the city's refined culture, is best described in William Dalrymple's book, "The White Mughals". Medieval Hyderabad is characterized by its old quarter dominated by the Charminar gateway, the Mecca Masjid and the lively Lad Bazaar.

Among the principal features that we will visit are the grand Chowmahalla Palace, now resplendent after its painstaking restoration. At the Salarjung Museum we will view the private textile collections of the Nizams.



The markets of Old Hyderabad are most alluring just after sunset as shoppers flock to buy household goods, bangles, pearls, local fabrics and crafts amidst the din of the never ending bustle and raucous bargaining, cycle and rickshaw bells and the tantalizing aroma of freshly prepared street foods. Dinner this evening is at the hotel. (B/D)

## **TUESDAY, JANUARY 24 – HYDERABAD**

In the morning we will visit the base of Golconda Fort, the source of Hyderabad's medieval origins and the seat of power of the Qutab Shahi dynasty, adjacent to which is their royal metropolis. In the shadow of the brooding Qutab Shahi tombs, visit Suraiya's, a remarkable enterprise that has worked indefatigably to revive the region's endangered textile crafts. It is one of the most privileged experiences on a visit to India.

We have been invited for lunch today the private Secundrabad Club. One of the five oldest clubs in India, it was started as an exclusive club for the officers of the British Cantonment, and is today one of the finest clubs for Indian gentlemen.

Afterward we will visit the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century New Hyderabad and its predecessor the British Residency. The latter, now conserved by the World Monuments Fund, is home to Osmania

Women's College. The other very significant buildings in this area are the High Court, the Holy Trinity Church and the Spanish Mosque. The military cantonment of Secunderabad is dotted with fine public buildings and churches.

The evening is at leisure. (B/L)

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25 - HYDERABAD: BANGALORE/ MYSORE**

Early this morning we will transfer to the airport for the Kingfisher Airlines flight to Mysore, with a connection in Bangalore. Upon arrival we will transfer to the railway station to board the *Golden Chariot*, the newest luxury train appointed with the finest facilities, for a truly unique and memorable journey. **We have our own guide and private sightseeing arrangements.**



After time to settle in to our air-conditioned accommodations with en suite facilities, we will enjoy lunch on the train whose two dining cars were inspired by the royal aesthetics of the Hampi and Halebid temples.

Mysore has always been associated with the royal families and their patronage, and is known for its resplendent palaces and majestic buildings. This former state capital still retains its tradition in music and dance, art and literature and its time-honored crafts.

Our sightseeing in Mysore will include a visit to Srirangapatna, an island fortress/summer palace from which Hyder Ali and his son, the legendary warrior king Tipu Sultan, ruled much of Southern India during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. We will also visit Somnathpur, a superb 13<sup>th</sup>-century temple.

This evening we will proceed to the opulent Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel built by the Maharaja of Mysore for his most important guest, the Viceroy of India. We will attend a cultural performance followed by dinner. (B/L/D)



#### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 26 – MYSORE: HASSAN/BELUR/HALEBID**

The *Golden Chariot* departs Mysore early this morning for Hassan, where we will disembark to visit Shravanabelagola, an important Jain pilgrimage center. It is home to Asia's largest monolithic statue looming atop picturesque Vindhyagiri Hill. (Please note that you will have to climb about 700 steps to experience this architectural marvel. Those who cannot undertake this visit have the option of being carried up in palanquins, or stay behind on board the *Golden Chariot*.)

After lunch back on the train, we will leave for sightseeing in Belur and Halebid to visit two very important and jewel-like Hoysala Dynasty temples. The Chennakesave Temple in Belur was built by Hoysala Vishnuvardhana to commemorate his victory over the Cholas; and the Hoysaleswara Temple in Halebid is a sculptural extravaganza, whose walls are richly carved with an endless variety of Hindu deities, sages, animals and birds, as well as friezes depicting the life of the Hoysala Kings.

We return to the *Golden Chariot* for dinner and overnight as our train departs of Hospet. (B/L/D)

#### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 27 – HOSPET: HAMPI**

We arrive in Hospet early this morning, and after breakfast will leave for the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hampi, the last capital of the great Hindu Kingdom of Vijayanagar. The splendid remains of palaces and gateways of the broken city tell a tale of man's infinite talent of creativity together with his capacity for senseless destruction. We will visit the hilltop Virupaksah Temple, the ruins of the elaborate "Queens's Bath," the Indo-Islamic architecture of the Elephant stables, a local crafts bazaar, the Royal enclosure and the Hazara Rama Temple.

After lunch back on board the *Golden Chariot*, we will visit the Vittala Temple with the beautiful Stone Chariot. We return to the train for dinner and overnight. (B/L/D)

## **SATURDAY, JANUARY 28 – HOSPET: BADAMI/GOA**

The *Golden Chariot* departs Hospet early this morning, and we will have breakfast on board before arriving at Badami, another World Heritage Site. Sightseeing this morning will include the nearby sixth and eighth-century Badami cave temples and the temples at the World Heritage Site of Pattadakal, the only place where both Northern and Southern styles can be seen together.

We return to the *Golden Chariot* for lunch and departure for Goa. There will be time to relax and enjoy the facilities on board the train – spa and gym facilities, movies, and the plush lounge and bar coach modeled after the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Mysore Palace. We dine this evening on board the train. (B/L/D)

## **SUNDAY, JANUARY 29 – GOA**

We arrive in Goa after midnight. Following breakfast we will disembark the *Golden Chariot* and transfer to our deluxe sea-view accommodations at the *Taj Exotica* overlooking the Arabian Sea. This Mediterranean-style five-star resort is set amidst 56 acres of lush gardens.

Enroute, we will stop to visit the Menezes Braganza House, the grandest and largest of Goa's Portuguese mansions. Built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it remains remarkably well preserved and retains the aura of an age gone by.

In the evening drinks and dinner will be at Palacio do Deao, a 213-year-old mansion built by a Portuguese nobleman who was Dean of the Church and founder of Quepem town. Facing the church he built, it is on the banks of the wildly beautiful Kushavati River and is built in an unusual style blending elements of Hindu and Portuguese architecture. Another of its outstanding features are the historic lush gardens, known since olden times as the most beautiful pleasure gardens in Goa. (B/D)



## **MONDAY, JANUARY 30 – GOA: PANJIM**

This morning we will tour of Old Goa and Panjim. Our first visit will be to the Basilica de Bom Jesus, built by the Jesuits and housing the richly decorated mausoleum of St. Francis Xavier. We will also visit the magnificent Se Cathedral, with its splendid gilded high altar; St Cajetan's Church, modeled

after St. Peter's in Rome; and the Christian Art Museum, the first in Asia, housed in the Convent of Santa Monica.

We will then continue to the city of Panjim, to tour the recently restored colonial buildings of the Portuguese era and Fontainhas, the area known as the 'Latin Quarter', with its colorful houses and narrow streets and alleyways. Also situated here is the beautiful house which is the headquarters of the Fundacao de Oriente, promoting cross-cultural artistic and cultural activities.

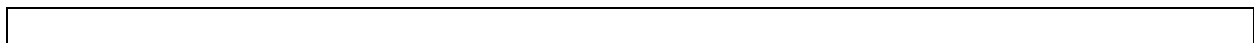
The balance of the day and the evening are at leisure. Our accommodations will be held until 12:00 midnight prior to a late airport transfer. (B)



**TUESDAY, JANUARY 31 – DEPART GOA**

Early morning airport transfer for our departing flights

**NOTE:** An additional eight-night Northern extension to Udaipur, Jaipur, Agra and Delhi is available. Costs upon request.



## TOUR COSTS

**Land Arrangements based on Double Occupancy:** \$7,755.00 per person

**Supplement for Single Occupancy:** \$1,985.00

**Supplement for Suite Accommodations upon request.**

**Airline reservations:** Please contact Susan Gullia at Protravel International

### **Above price includes following:**

- 06 nights' accommodation at hotels named above in room categories with "Meals" as indicated above in the itinerary.
- 04 nights on Golden Chariot with ensuite facilities, inclusive of all meals and sightseeing
- Overland transportation and transfers using a deluxe air-conditioned coach with soft drinks/ domestic bottled water.
- Services of an accompanying Tour manager throughout
- Private sightseeing arrangements with local English speaking guides.
- Entrances and still camera fees at monuments.
- Porterage at hotels/ airports/ railway stations.
- Tips and gratuities to hotel staff, local guides and drivers.
- Domestic airfare in economy class: Hyderabad/Bangalore/ Mysore and Goa Mumbai
- All applicable taxes.

### **Above price does NOT Include**

- International airfare to/ from India, Travel/ health Insurance and visa fees.
- All other meals except meals indicated above and all other expenses of personal nature i.e. telephone calls, laundry, spa etc.
- Video camera fees.
- Any other arrangements not specified above in the itinerary.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

**RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS:** Reservation Form must be accompanied by a deposit in the amount of **\$1000.00** per person. Final payment is due no later than **November 21, 2011**. Any pre- and post-tour arrangements not finalized by **November 21, 2011** may result in an additional service fee. .

**CANCELLATIONS/REFUNDS:** For land arrangements, written cancellation received by Protravel International (hereafter referred to as Protravel), no later than **November 21, 2011**, will result in a full refund less an administrative fee of **\$350.00** per person. In the event of later cancellation, NO REFUND will be made unless a total or partial resale of the reservation(s) is effected, after which a cancellation fee of **\$500.00** per person will apply. NO REFUND will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate. If registration proves insufficient by **November 21, 2011**, Protravel reserves the right to cancel the tour and a full refund will be made to those persons registered at that time. Certain airfares carry restrictions and penalties, to be advised at time of booking; full refunds will be made for refundable Business and First Class airfares. (*A ticket-processing fee applies for all airline reservations.*) Protravel is not responsible for any non-refundable airfares.

**INCLUDED:** Hotel accommodations as shown in the itinerary (the right is reserved to substitute another hotel in a similar category); breakfast daily and other meals as indicated in the program; a complete program throughout the tour, including transportation and admission to all points of interest.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Transportation to and from India; transfers to and from the hotel upon arrival and departure; items of a personal nature, such as laundry, phone/fax communications; gratuities; items not on the regular menus; expenses of hotels, meals, guides, buses, cars, railroad, boats, etc., for sightseeing not included in the itinerary; insurance of any kind; any other items not specifically included.

**TRIP INSURANCE:** ***Cancellation/Baggage/Medical insurance is strongly recommended (an application will be sent with your tour confirmation).***

**RESPONSIBILITY:** In all matters related to the making of arrangements for hotel accommodations, sightseeing tours and services provided incident thereto, entertainment and transportation by air, railroad, motor coach, boat, automobile, etc., Protravel will act only in the capacity of an agent for any of the travel services with regard to carriers, hotels, suppliers and all other related services. Because of its status as an agent, and because it maintains no control over the personnel, equipment or operations of these travel service suppliers, Protravel can assume no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for any personal injury, property damage or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of (1) any wrongful or negligent acts or omissions on the part of the suppliers, (2) any wrongful, negligent or unauthorized acts or omissions on the part of any employee of any of these suppliers, (3) any defect in or failure of any vehicle, equipment or instrumentality owned, operated or otherwise used by any of these suppliers, or (4) any wrongful or negligent acts or omissions on the part of any other party not under the control, direct or otherwise, of Protravel. Protravel and their agents reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour any time before departure or during the tour. The above disclaimer is similarly claimed by the American Museum as sponsor of the tour. The tour prices mentioned in this brochure are based on tariffs and costs in effect at time of printing, and are subject to increase without notice should there be any upward revision in such tariffs or costs before departure. In the event that it becomes necessary or advisable for any reason whatsoever to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made. Additional expenses, if any, will be borne by the passengers. The price includes operator's compensation for service, supervision, operation, promotion and profit. Airlines, railroads and vessels concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their planes or conveyances.

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**TRAVELER'S REPRESENTATIONS:** Acceptance of the Confirmation/Invoice covering this tour and payment thereof certifies that you have not recently been treated for, nor are you aware of any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard to yourself or other members of this tour, and is also an acceptance of the tour conditions applicable to the tour and that you have read and understand those conditions.

