



### **Mahatma Gandhi – (1869 – 1948)**

One of the pivotal figures, if not the main figure who shaped India's history up to independence in 1947

"Perhaps travel cannot prevent bigotry but it can introduce the idea that if we try and understand each other, we may even become friends."

## **INDIA ...GOING SOUTH**

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INDIA ... a land for all seasons - History goes back to 3,200 BC when Hinduism was first founded. History of South India covers a span of over two thousand years during which the region saw the rise and fall of a number of dynasties and empires.

#### **Itinerary:**

##### **Day 01 : MUMBAI**

WELCOME with garlands on arrival before transfer to hotel. Bombay or Mumbai as it is now called, commercial capital of India, city of business and industrial entrepreneurs, concrete towers, glamor, cricket, Film Industry, clubs and discos. A cluster of seven islands named by its native Koli fisher folk after goddess Mumbadevi. In 1661, Charles II of England received the islands of Bombay as dowry when he married Princess Catherine of Braganza.



**Day 02 : MUMBAI - GOA** - Transfer to airport for flight to GOA. Transfer to hotel on arrival. Goa, known as "Pearl of the Orient" and "Tourist Paradise", located on west coast of India in coastal belt known as Konkan. Portuguese colony until 1962, famous for Indo-Portuguese culture and architecture, and beaches reflect its colourful mosaic history. Evening at Leisure.

**Day 03 : GOA** – Sightseeing city spectacular Churches tour.

- Church of Our Lady of Miracles: Constructed in 1594, almost destroyed in a fire set off by retreating Portuguese in 1961 but renovated soon after.

- Reis Magos Church: Located inside the fort, built in 1555, run by Franciscans
- Church Our Lady of Rock of France: At Brittona on banks of Mandovi river opposite city of Panaji in Bardez taluka.
- Church Mae de Deus at Saligao built 1873
- Saligao Seminary: Active seminary situated at Saligao.
- Church Our Lady Immaculate Conception. In center of Moira village, near Mapusa in Bardez Taluka, built in 1636. Facade with a central false dome. Overnight at hotel.



##### **Day 04 : GOA - BANGALORE**

Transfer to airport for flight to Bangalore, with hotel check-in on arrival.

Modern city of Bangalore, founded by Kempe Gowda, Vijayanagar chieftain of Yelahanga, over 400years ago. Ancient inscriptions point to existence of a village called 'Bengaluru' prior to 10th century. Kempe Gowda built a mud fort with 8 gates. Inside the fortress walls, old names such as Chickpet, Dodda pet, Taragupet, Halipet. Kempe Gowda built several temples - Gavi Gangeswara temple at Gavipuram and another at Basavanagudi.

Evening sightseeing tour of Bangalore to visit monuments and sites.

- Bangalore Palace and Fort - Built by Kempe Gowda, expanded by Tippu Sultan.
- Ganapathi Temple dates back to 16th century. Lal Bagh - Hyder Ali laid out this famous botanical garden and his son adding horticultural wealth by importing trees and plants from several countries.
- ISKCON - A must visit temple. It stands over a

small hill, very clean and well maintained.

- Gangadhareshwara Temple. Known for four monolithic pillars and rare idol of Agni, the God of fire and also built by Kempe Gowda. Overnight at hotel.



**Day 05 : BANGALORE - MYSORE** - Morning drive to Mysore. Check in at hotel. Legends of old mention Mahishasura, demon king and ruler of Mysore, killed by Goddess Parvati. Historically speaking, earliest mention, date back to King Ashok around 245 B.C. Evening sightseeing tour of Bangalore.

- St. Philomena's Church : over 200 years old, one of the oldest churches in India.
- Lalita Mahal, heritage building overlooking Chamundi Hills. Commissioned by Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV in 1921 for exclusive stay of Viceroy of India.
- Chamundeswari Temple built in honour of Goddess Chamundi. Overnight at hotel.

#### **Day 06 : MYSORE - NAGARHOLE**

Drive to Nagarhole with check-in on arrival. Nagarhole National Park, known as 'Rajiv Gandhi National Park', set up in 1955, one of best-managed parks in the country. Office of Deputy Conservator of Forests. Tropical climate and home to tiger, bison and elephant. Afternoon Jeep Safari into National Park. Evening at Leisure. Overnight at hotel.

#### **Day 07 : NAGARHOLE - OOTY - COONOR**

Drive to Coonoor with an en-route stop and visit to Ooty, situated in Nilgiri Mountains near Tri Junction of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. Ooty attracts visitors during all seasons, famous as 'all-seasons-hill resort'.

- Government Botanical Gardens, maintained by the Horticulture Department of the state, was laid in the year 1847.
- Dodabetta Peak at an altitude of 2,623m, the highest point in the district.
- Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary a great place

to spend a day.

- Kalthatty Waterfalls, situated on Kalthatty slopes. Drive to Coonoor and check in at hotel.

**Day 08 : COONOR - KOCHI** - Drive to Kochi, a city located Kerala. Kochi is described as 'Queen of the Arabian Sea', and spice trading centre on Arabian Sea coast from 14th century onwards. Between 1503 and 1530, the capital of Portuguese India and later occupied by Dutch, Mysore and British. Experience Kathakali, famous classical dance known for elaborate make up, grand costumes and intricate eye hand movements. Overnight at hotel

**Day 09 : KOCHI** - Morning sightseeing tour.

- Dutch Palace built by Portuguese in 1555 AD and handed over to Raja Kerala Varma of Cochin and renamed Mattancheri in 1663.
  - Jewish Synagogue built in 1568, destroyed by the Portuguese in 1662, rebuilt by the Dutch.
  - St. Francis Church, oldest protestant church built by the Portuguese in 1510.
- Evening Sunset cruise. Overnight at hotel

**Day 10 : KOCHI – PERIYAR** - Drive to Periyar.

Upon arrival, check-in at hotel. Tiger Reserve lies in the Western Ghats in the Idukki District of state of Kerala. Terrain of is undulating and drainage is dendrite. North eastern boundary of Reserve forms boundary between states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Periyar Lake, area of 26 sq kms, is the nucleus of tiger Reserve. Its diverticular shape, caters to an extensive area of forest and would not be possible if it were merely a compact lake. Sunset cruise journey at Periyar. Overnight at hotel

**Day 11 : PERIYAR - MADURAI** - Drive to Madurai.

Upon arrival, check-in at hotel. One of South India's great temple towns, Madurai is synonymous with the celebrated Meenakshi Temple. Situated on the banks of river Vaigai, Madurai has a rich cultural heritage passed on from Tamil era more than 2500 years old. Important cultural and commercial centre even as early as 550 AD, capital city of great Pandya kings.

- Sri Meenakshi Temple : One of the most important tourist land marks. Madurai is synonymous with Sri Meenakshi Temple, dedicated to Sri Meenakshi, consort of Lord Shiva. Evening Puja at Meenakshi Temple. Overnight at hotel



**Day 12 : MADURAI - TANJORE** - Drive to Tanjore. Upon arrival, check-in at hotel. Modern Thanjavur (previously named Tanjore), fertile plain referred to as 'rice bowl' of Tamil Nadu, has the distinction of having been the capital of Cholas, one of the greatest dynasties, who built no fewer than 74 temples. Afternoon sightseeing tour of Tanjore.

- Brahadeeswarar Temple. Built by great Chola King, Raja Raja, 10th Century A.D, an outstanding example of Chola architecture. The Tower over sanctum sanctorum rises to 15m from a square base of 2808m. then tapers to a total height of 64080m. Tower is capped by 813 tonne round monolithic cupola and is a World Heritage Monument.
- The Palace : Near the temple, has huge corridors and spacious halls.
- Art Gallery : Contains granite and bronze statues of Chola period. Overnight at hotel

**Day 13 : TANJORE - MAHABALIPURAM**  
Drive to Mahabalipuram. Check-in at hotel. A modern beach resort in the making, but all else in this tiny seaside village is dwarfed by a dream world of Tamil art that awes even the uninitiated, an open-air museum of sculpture in living rock.

- Arjuna's Penance : Composition of hundreds of celestial beings, humans and animals, all hurrying to a natural rock cleft.
- Shore Temple : Protected by a wall that hides its façade but saves it from elements that are fast eroding it.
- Krishna Mandapam : Serenity of a pastoral scene is ensured by Krishna protecting all God's creatures with a massive umbrella, the Govardhana mountain.
- Varaha Mandapam : Varaha the boar bursts from the ocean, clutching the rescued Earth Goddess.
- Mahishasuramardini Mandapam : Goddess Durga, an amazon astride a lion, battles the powerful buffalo-headed demon.
- Mahishasura.Five Rathas : Named after

Pandava brothers, heroes of Mahabharata, and their wife Draupadi, are part of an amphitheatre of art. Overnight at hotel

#### **Day 14: MAHABALIPURAM - CHENNAI**

Morning drive to Chennai, formerly known as Madras, capital of the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Located on coromandel coast of Bay of Bengal. City established in 17th century by the British, and developed it into a major urban centre and naval base. By 20th century, it had become an important administrative centre. Afternoon sightseeing city of Chennai.

- Kapaleeswarar Temple : Biggest city temple and fine specimen of Dravidian architecture.
- National Art Gallery Government Museum
- Museums at Egmore. Founded in 1857.
- Fort St. George : 17th century, this fort was built under supervision of Francis Day and Andrew Cogon. houses St. Mary's Church and a museum.
- Santhome Cathedral : Features stained glass window at basilica depicting the story of St. Thomas. The central hall has 14 wooden plaques depicting scenes from last days of Christ. Transfer to Chennai Airport to connect flight for next destination.

#### **Price Includes:**

1. Accommodation sharing 12 Nights - HB.
2. Accommodation sharing 1 night FB with all activities Kabini River Lodge
3. All Transfers and Sightseeing
4. Entrances at monuments in each city.
5. English Speaking Local tour Guide
6. River boat cruise on Mandovi – Goa.
7. Toy Train Ride from Coonoor To Ooty.
8. Exclusive Boat Ride, Cochin.
9. Kathakali Dance Show, Cochin.
10. Common Boat Ride Lake Periyar
11. Assistance at airports and hotels.
12. Government Service Tax.

#### **Not Included :**

1. Any Tips To Driver, Guide.
2. Any Insurance Coverage.
3. Personal Expenses, Laundry, Drinks
4. Anything not Included In above cost.
5. International Airfares

Price From: US\$1 600 per person sharing - Single Supplement: US\$510  
Airfare: Mumbai – Goa – Bangalore - from US\$245 subject to availability of flights.

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