



Mecca Mosque, Hyderabad

# central & southern explorer 20 days

**FROM \$5,833 PER PERSON TWIN SHARE - 20 DAYS - FULLY INCLUSIVE FROM AUSTRALIA**

*From price includes: Tour Cost \$5,360, Airline Fuel Surcharge \$356 and Tipping \$117 (subject to change)*

Embark on a captivating tour through central and southern India. Start your journey in Mumbai; formerly known as Bombay, this lively city never sleeps and is home to the largest movie industry, 'Bollywood'. Capture India's continually changing scenery, from the UNESCO World Heritage listed Ajanta Caves at Aurangabad, to the impressive Charminar at Hyderabad. Discover ancient forts, majestic temples and verdant landscapes.

A night will be spent on a relaxing houseboat to view the rural village life around the backwaters of Kerala. This will give you time to sit back and soak up the scenery as it unfolds before your eyes, making this a truly enjoyable experience.

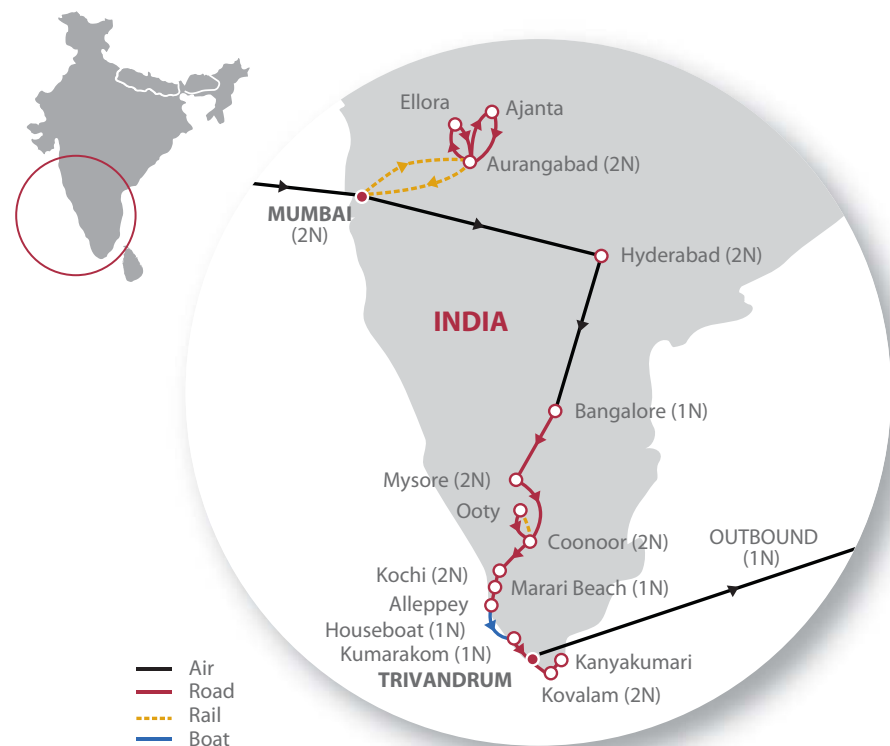
The beguiling diversity of this vibrant and colourful country will truly amaze you. An ideal choice for those who adore architecture, love history and who have a desire to see some of the fascinating sites this amazing land has to offer.

## inclusions

International airfares, all transportation in India, accommodation, all meals, entrance fees, guides and daily tours, taxes and charges, Australia and India departure taxes and visas for Australian passport holders

## price guide

- ✈ 20 Days, Fully Inclusive Twin Share  
**From \$5,833 per person** - Departing Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth with Singapore Airlines
- 🏠 Single Hotel Supplement - From \$1,830
- 🚗 Land Only (Mumbai to Trivandrum) - From \$4,777 (includes tipping)
- ★★ Medium Paced Tour (see pages 8-9)



### DAY 1: AUSTRALIA TO MUMBAI

Fly with Singapore Airlines to Mumbai for a two-night stay.

### DAY 2: MUMBAI

Enjoy a visit to the 1,200-year-old Elephanta Caves this morning. After lunch, tour the city of Mumbai; drive past the Afghan Church and along Marine Drive. Visit the Gateway of India, the Hanging Gardens, Chowpatty Beach, Kamala Nehru Park and Mani Bhavan. Stop at the Dhobi Ghat where Mumbai's 'dirties' are scrubbed, bashed, dyed and hung out to dry. We also visit the colourful Crawford Market and the Flora Fountain before returning to our hotel.

### DAY 3: MUMBAI TO AURANGABAD

This morning we transfer to the railway station and board our train to Aurangabad. Upon arrival visit the UNESCO World Heritage listed Ellora Caves, with 34 rock-cut shrines representing Buddhist, Hindu and Jain art. After sightseeing, return to Aurangabad for a two-night stay.

### DAY 4: AURANGABAD

Today we enjoy an excursion to the Ajanta Caves, another UNESCO World Heritage listed site, dating from around 200BC to 650AD.

### DAY 5: AURANGABAD TO HYDERABAD

Transfer to the railway station for our early train back to Mumbai. After lunch in a local restaurant we transfer to Mumbai airport to board our flight to Hyderabad.

### DAY 6: HYDERABAD

Enjoy a visit to Golconda Fort. Dating back to the 13th Century, it was once famed for its diamond mines. We then continue to Usman Sagar Lake, a beautiful man-made lake.

### DAY 7: HYDERABAD TO BANGALORE

Tour Hyderabad this morning, visiting the Charminar, often described as the 'Arc de Triomphe of the East' and the Mecca Mosque. Continue to the Salar Jung Museum to see the one-man collection of manuscripts, ancient weapons, costumes and curios. This afternoon we transfer to Hyderabad airport to board our flight to Bangalore.

### DAY 8: BANGALORE TO MYSORE

Enjoy a tour of Bangalore, visiting the Lal Bagh and the Bull Temple, drive past the Government Secretariat, Vidhana Soudha (Legislature building) and Cubbon Park. After lunch we continue our journey to Mysore visiting Srirangapatnam Fort en route.

### DAY 9: MYSORE

Tour Mysore today, visiting the Maharaja's Palace, see the Jayachamarajendra Art Gallery. Drive up to Chamundi Hill to see the Sri Chamundeshwari Temple where you will have a panoramic view of Mysore. On the way down we visit the Nandi Bull statue and Brindavan Gardens.

### DAY 10: MYSORE TO COONOR

Today we drive to the hill station of Coonor. Enjoy a tour of the city this afternoon including Sim's Park, a small well-maintained botanical garden and a tea factory. Stop at viewpoints and picnic spots including Lamb's Rock, Lady Canning's Seat and Dolphin's Nose.

### DAY 11: COONOR - OOTY

This morning we take the 'Toy Train' to the hill station of Ooty, famous for its tea and coffee plantations. Visit the botanical gardens, established in 1847 and Doddabetta Peak, the highest point in the Nilgiri Mountains, offering spectacular views of the valleys below. Return to Coonor by coach this afternoon.

### DAY 12: COONOR TO KOCHI

We have a full day of driving as we continue our journey to Kochi. Enjoy a packed lunch today.

### DAY 13: KOCHI

Enjoy a tour of Kochi; visit the Dutch Palace, Jewish synagogue, St. Francis Church and the Santa Cruz Basilica. View the unique Chinese fishing nets before we end the day with a walk through the Fort Kochi area.

### DAY 14: KOCHI TO MARARI BEACH

This morning we visit the local market before commencing our drive to Marari Beach.

### DAY 15: MARARI BEACH TO ALLEPPEY

We depart for Alleppey to board our overnight houseboats to Kumarakom. The houseboats, known as 'kettuvallams', are converted from traditional rice barges. Enjoy the afternoon relaxing onboard as we cruise along the backwaters of Kerala.

### DAY 16: KUMARAKOM

After breakfast onboard, we disembark our boat in Kumarakom. Enjoy the afternoon at your leisure.

### DAY 17: KUMARAKOM TO KOVALAM

Drive to Kovalam this morning, stopping in Trivandrum en route to visit the Sri Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Chitralayam Art Gallery, the Zoological Gardens and Museums. We will also visit the Reptile House, the Observatory, Kanakakunnu Palace and Sree Moolamthirunal Shasti Purthi Memorial (State Handicraft Institute).

### DAY 18: KOVALAM - KANYAKUMARI

Today we enjoy a full day excursion to Kanyakumari (Cape Comorin), where the Bay of Bengal meets the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. Visit the rock on which Swami Vivekananda meditated.

### DAY 19: DEPART KOVALAM

Enjoy the morning at your leisure. After a late check-out transfer to Trivandrum airport to board our overnight flight to Australia.

### DAY 20: ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Arrive home this morning.



## departures

TOUR CODE	DEPART AUSTRALIA	ARRIVE AUSTRALIA	TWIN SHARE PRICE
<b>2011</b>			
ICS1102	13 Mar	01 Apr	\$5,833
ICS1104	25 Sep	14 Oct	\$5,933
ICS1106	23 Oct	11 Nov	\$5,933
<b>2012</b>			
ICS1202	11 Mar	30 Mar	\$5,933
ICS1204	23 Sep	12 Oct	\$5,933

**Important note:** Above prices include airline fuel surcharge and tipping of \$473 (correct as at 30 July 2010 and subject to change). Please note the tipping amount of US\$105 (AU\$117) is payable on arrival in India.

**MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR HOLIDAY**  
Singapore Hotels and Touring (see page 49)