



Spiritual India

An adventure with Sudhakar Selwyn

Nov 2018

Itinerary

Day 1
3 Nov
Saturday

Departure from USA

Day 2
4 Nov
Sunday

Arrival in Hyderabad

Hyderabad

Steeped in history, thronged with people and buzzing with commerce, the Old City of Hyderabad is one of India's most evocative ancient quarters. Exploring the lanes of this district, with its chai shops and spice merchants, you'll encounter a teeming urban masala of color and commerce. Looming over the Old City is some of Islamic India's most impressive architecture, in varying states of repair. Most visitors concentrate their time in this area, though the magnificent Golconda Fort should not be missed either

Hyderabad's other pole is far younger and west of the center - its Hi-Tech City, or 'Cyberabad', and other districts like Banjara Hills and Jubilee Hills are replete with glittery malls, multiplexes, clubs, pubs and sleek restaurants.

One thing you have to accept wherever you are in Hyderabad: the traffic is appalling. A (long-delayed) Metro Rail rapid-transit system should ease things somewhat in the coming years.

On your arrival you will be transferred to our Hotel

Rest of the day is free

Radisson

Day 3
5 Nov
Monday

Today we have a chance to explore and learn about the famous fairy tale fortress of Golconda.

Golconda fort is undoubtedly one of most magnificent fortress complexes in India. The history of Golconda Fort goes back to early 13th century, when it was ruled by the Kakatiya's followed by Qutub Shahi kings, who ruled the region in 16th and 17th century. The fortress rests on a granite hill 120 meters high while huge crenellated ramparts surround this structure.

Hyderabad

The fort is considered a mute witness to historic events. The Qutub Shahis reign at Golconda ended in 1687 when it was run over by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, who intentionally left it in ruins

The fort gains an impressive place among the architectural marvels and heritage structures of India and is a testimony to Hyderabad's glorious past
In the evening an option available for the Hyderabad Pearl shopping
Dinner in the local restaurant by the lake side
Hotel Radisson B, D

Day 4
6 Nov
Tuesday

Hyderabad

This morning after Breakfast, we drive to a tribal village and learn about their lives and culture. We have lunch in the tribal village
In the afternoon, Orientation walk through the Old town and learn about the city's famous monument the Charminar Rest of the evening is free for on your own experience.
Radisson B, L

Day 5
7 Nov
Wednesday

Hyderabad

Festival of Lights (Diwali)
Deepavali or Diwali - also known as the "Festival of Lights" is the biggest festival in the Hindu Calendar. Spiritually, it symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance. As the term "Festival of Lights" suggests, the celebration involves millions of lights illuminated from rooftops, doorways and windows in thousands of temples and buildings in most of the places, where the festival is observed.
In the morning after a relaxed breakfast we explore some of the old neighborhood of Hyderabad and later in the afternoon, we have an opportunity to celebrate the "festival of Lights" with a local family and have dinner with them
Radisson B, L, D

Day 6
8 Nov
Thursday

Hyderabad
Hampi

Domestic flight to Vidyanagar (Bellary)
2T416 DEP 06:15 HRS ARR 07:25 HRS
Early morning, we set in for a domestic flight to Hampi for a remarkable experience in the fantasy world of stones and ruins
<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/india/karnataka/hampi> Check in at our Hotel and afternoon explore the Sunset view point
Hotel Hampi Boulders
B, D

Day 7
9 Nov
Friday

Hampi

Explore Hampi ruins by foot from Vithala to Virupaksha on the banks of the river Tungabhadra
Lunch at the local restaurant
Later optional hike to the Hemkunt peak for a fascinating view of the ruins and the rock boulders
Hotel Hampi Boulders
B, L, D

Day 8
10 Nov
Saturday

Hampi

Morning optional hike to Hanuman Temple.
Lunch on your own in the old town of Hampi.
Later in the afternoon we visit Zanna enclosure and Hazrat Rama complex
Hotel Hampi Boulders
B, D

Day 9
11 Nov
Sunday

Hampi
Bengaluru
(Bangalore)

Morning drive to Bangalore

Bengaluru (also called Bangalore) is the capital of India's southern Karnataka state. The center of India's high-tech industry, the city is also known for its parks and nightlife. Former royal residences include 19th-century Bangalore Palace, modeled after England's Windsor Castle, and Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace, an 18th-century teak structure.

On arrival we check in and have lunch at a local restaurant

Evening Explore the Lalbagh Botanical gardens

Dinner on your own

B, L Hotel Southern Star

Day 10
12 Nov
Monday

Bengaluru
Mysore

After a relaxed breakfast, we take a 4-hour bus ride to reach Mysore.

The historic settlement of Mysore (which changed its name from Mysore in 2014) is one of South India's most enchanting cities, famed for its glittering royal heritage and magnificent monuments and buildings. Its World Heritage-listed palace brings most travelers here, but Mysore is also rich in tradition with a deeply atmospheric bazaar district littered with spice stores and incense stalls.

On arrival we proceed for a local restaurant and then Check-in.

Later, we explore the city market of Mysore and Maharaja Palace.

B, L Hotel Fortune

Dinner on your own.

Day 11
13 Nov
Tuesday

Mysore
Srirangapattnam
Chamundi Hill

Today we explore the ruin town of Srirangapattnam in the morning. Geographically, Srirangapattnam is a rocky island formed by Cauvery River.

During the rise of Hyder Ali, the general of Mysore king, Srirangapattnam again came into prominence. Hyder Ali and his much famed son Tipu Sultan converted Srirangapattnam into a fortified city. That continued for many decades as the power center of south India. Between 1766 and 1799 four wars were fought between the English East India Company and the Mysore, known in history as the Mysore Wars.

We will have lunch in the local Restaurant

Later in the day we also learn about the holy hill of Mysore, the Chamundi.

Hotel Fortune B, L

Day 12
14 Nov
Wednesday

Mysore
Nagarhole

After our relaxed breakfast at the Hotel, we drive approximately 3 hours to reach the Kabini River Lodge. Imagine waking at the crack of dawn and setting forth for the experience of your life. Witnessing the wild rousing from its slumber is a life changing experience. The forests of the Nagarhole National Park (Rajiv Gandhi National Park) abound in herds of elephant, sambar and spotted deer, wild boar, sloth bear, gaur and the occasional tiger and panther. It's not for nothing that the locale of this resort was once the Maharaja's favorite hunting ground.

A morning and evening jeep safari or even a boat ride down the River Kabini rewards you with sightings of herds of elephants, crocodiles sunning themselves and many hued birds flitting in and out of the forest's green canopy.

Afternoon we have a Jeep safari in the National Park.

B, L, D Kabini River Lodge

Day 13
15 Nov
Thursday
Nagarhole

Morning optional Jeep / Boat Safari
Afternoon Jeep Safari in the National Park B, L, D
Kabini River Lodge

Day 14
16 Nov Friday

Nagarhole
Ooty

This morning we drive to the hills to reach Ooty also known as Udhagamandalam in Tamil which is situated at 7350 Ft above the sea level. Udhagamandalam was originally a tribal land occupied by the Toda along with other hill tribes who coexisted through specialization and trade. The major tribes of Nilgiris area are the Toda, Baduga, Kota, Irula and Kurumba. The Toda people were known for raising water buffalo. The Tamil and Baduga people known for farming activities
Hotel Taj Savoy, B, D

Day 15
17 Nov
Saturday

OOTY

This morning we join the tea estate workers and learn about them. We will have our lunch in the Tea plantation.
After lunch we proceed to the railway station to take the World Heritage Train ride in the mountains
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/944>
Evening free and Dinner on your own B, L

Day 16
18 Nov
Sunday

OOTY

We spend our morning with the Toda Tribes families and learn about their traditions and culture.

<http://www.frontline.in/static/html/fl2105/stories/20040312000206600.htm>

Lunch at local restaurant
Later in the afternoon free time to explore the hill on your own.
Dinner on your own B, L

Day 17
19 Nov
Monday
OOTY
CHENNAI

In the morning we drive to Coimbatore the industrial town of Tamilnadu
We connect flight to Chennai (Madras)
We stay overnight at Hotel Trident
B, D

Day 18
20 Nov
Tuesday
CHENNAI

This Morning free time to relax and later transfer to Airport

Inclusions

1. Twin Bedded room with Breakfast in the hotels mentioned or similar
2. Domestic air tickets on day 6 and Day 17
3. All entrance fees for the monuments
4. All the local Guide Fees
5. Services of Tour Leader (Indian English Speaking)
6. All Airport transfers
7. Air conditioned SUV (Toyota) or mini Bus as per the program
8. Jeep safari in the National parks as mentioned in the program
9. Train tickets as per the program

10. All breakfast in the hotel and other meals as mentioned in the program
11. Bottled drinking water in the Bus, during included meals and in the room.

Not included

1. International Airfare
2. Travel and trip insurance
3. Visa Fees
4. Meals which are not mentioned in the program
5. All Gratuities
6. Camera Fees in the National park and monuments
7. Any other expenses of personal nature