

SOUTH INDIA SPECTACULAR SOJOURN

24th August to 13th September – 21 days/20 nights extravaganza



A South India 'Sojourn' or 'short stay in a place that is different from your usual milieu' begins in exotic Mumbai.....originally the epicentre of British Colonial rule, Mumbai intrigues with Architecture such as the Grand Railway station, Gateway to India, the Dhobi Ghats where HUGE quantities of Mumbai's daily washing is done and displayed and more. Onto Bangalore, or Bengaluru as it is now called, the Capital of Karnataka State and is rich with its 19th century Bangalore Palace and Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace, an 18th century teak structure. Mysore, the 'City of Palaces' is next on our itinerary, a city of beautiful proportion and visual delight. The Mysore Palace blends Hindu, Islamic, Gothic and Rajput styles. Mysore is also home to the centuries old Devaraja markets filled with spices, silks and sandalwood. Then Hampi, a relatively newly created World Heritage Site, Hampi is an ancient town in the rural south, dotted with ancient temple complexes from the early 14th Century Vijayanagara Empire.

*With so much history and cultural components, it's time to relax in Goa, the 'must see' tropical paradise visited by tourists from all over the world since the 1970's. Goa has maintained its natural tropical/seaside beauty since then, alongside its' Portuguese history encompassing religious elements and architecture. Enjoy Palolem where we will stay, noted as '**Best Beach in Goa**' by Trip Advisor. And there is still more...Pune, Aurangabad, Nashik (now it's time for the famous 'SULA' Winery for lunch, tastings and an afternoon of relaxation). A great day and night in Nashik, and the next day a leisurely drive to Mumbai International Airport for your evening flight back to Australia.*

Program

Mumbai

3 nights

24, 25 & 26 Aug

On arrival in Mumbai you will be met with a garland welcome and transferred to our hotel. After a good night's sleep, we will begin exploring Mumbai over the next two days. Visiting the Gateway of India, indulge in a water excursion to the infamous **Elephant Caves**, and later in the day visiting the **Dhobi Ghats**. The Dhobi Ghats are an amazing experience where there are rows upon rows of open-air concrete wash pens, each fitted with its own flogging stone. This is considered the world's largest outdoor laundry. And we will see much more including **Victoria Terminus** and the slum areas where '**Slumdog Millionaire**' was filmed.



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Hotel

'Luxury Room' at [Abode Hotel](#) or similar

Mumbai - Bangalore

2 nights

27 & 28 Aug

Fly to Bangalore mid afternoon, the Capital of Karnataka State, founded by Kempe Gowda 1, who built a mud fort at the site in 1537. The earliest evidence of a 'place called Bangalore' is C890! **Cubbon Park** is a distinctively English style park with form and structure as its' centerpieces. Next to Cubbon Park is Vidhana Soudha, a Neo-Dravidian building. Former royal residences include **Bangalore Palace**, modelled after Windsor Castle, plus **Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace**, an 18th century teak structure.



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'Deluxe Double Room' at [Bloom Suites, Electronic City](#) or similar



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**Bangalore -
Mysore**

3 nights
29, 30 & 31 Aug

A leisurely drive to Mysore. We will visit the infamous **Mysore Palace**, an historical palace and a royal residence. Mysore is commonly described as the 'City of Palaces', and there are seven palaces. The land on which the palace now stands was originally known as Puragiri (literally, citadel). The current Palace was constructed between 1897 and 1912, after the Old Palace was burnt to the ground. The Palace is now one of the most famous tourist attractions in India, after the Taj Mahal, with more than 6 million visitors annually. We will also visit the **Jaganmohan Palace and Art Gallery**, and the **Sri Chamundeswari Temple**. We will spend a good amount of time at local markets, these are extensive, organized and SO colourful, definitely not to be missed!



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'Superior Room' at [Radisson Blu Plaza](#) or similar



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**Mysore-
Hampi**

3 nights
1, 2 & 3 Sept

We will leave our Mysore hotel early for our daytime drive to Hampi. Staying at the beautiful 'Hampi Heritage Resort' our activities will start the following day after lunging by the pool and in our villas. The next two days (tours are half days on each day) will be spent discovering the UNESCO sites of Hampi including **Sri Virupaksh Temple, Vitthal Temple, the Royal Enclosure (all buildings), the Lakshmi Narsimha statue and Shiva Temple**. Hampi is extensive so some leisure time as a balance is necessary for relaxation, to recuperate and invigorate.



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'Deluxe Private Villa' at [Hampi Heritage Resort](#) or similar



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Hampi - Goa

4 nights

4, 5, 6 & 7 Sept

After breakfast we will take our A/C mini bus from Hampi to Goa arriving in beautiful **Palolem Beach**, Goa in the latter part of the day, a journey of incomparable beauty. The following morning of our time at Palolem Beach, we will have the chance to walk the beaches located next to our hotel, to bathe in the pool, to enjoy a traditional Goan boat ride to **Butterfly Beach**, **Honeymoon Beach**, and Agonda Beach to do some **dolphin watching**. Next day, we will be travelling to various parts of 'Old Goa' with a guide, to embrace the older **Portuguese Architecture** of this strong European community and some of the Churches ornately and interestingly decorated. The balance of time is for you. You may decide to hire a motorbike, to get a tuk tuk to additional places, to canoe through the surf or simply to swim and relax by the Indian Ocean.

Hotel

'Deluxe Pool View Rooms' at [Sobit Sarovar Hotel](#) or similar



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Goa - Pune

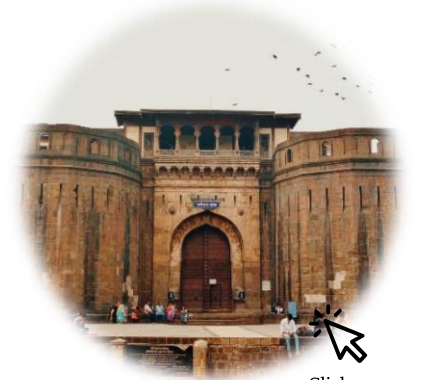
2 nights

8 & 9 Sept

Early afternoon we will fly from Goa arriving in beautiful Pune mid afternoon. Pune was once the base of the 'Peshwas' (Prime Ministers) of the Maratha Empire, which lasted 1674 – 1818. Pune is particularly known for the **Aga Khan Palace** built in 1892 and now a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, whose **ASHES ARE PRESERVED IN THE GARDEN**. The 8th century **Pataleshwar Cave Temple** is dedicated to the Hindu God Shiva. Pune is home to numerous forts and wadas highlighting the Maratha architecture. **Maratha Fort of Shaniwar Wada** is one of the main attractions in Pune. Many temples and ashrams are also spread across the city.

Hotel

Classoc 'King Room' at [Sheraton Grand](#) or similar



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**Pune –
Aurangabad**

2 nights
10 & 11 Sept

After breakfast we will take our A/C mini bus from Pune arriving in Aurangabad in the afternoon. The evening will be at your leisure. The next morning, we will head to the very famous **Ajana and Ellora Caves**. Enjoy the day with our professional guide exploring the caves and surrounds. The caves are a UNESCO World Heritage Site and are one of the largest rock-cut monasteries temple complexes featuring Buddhist, Hindu and Jain monuments and artwork. There are approximately 30 rock-cut Buddhist cave monuments forming the Ajana Caves which date from the 2nd century. The caves include paintings and rock-cut sculptures described as among the finest surviving examples of ancient Indian art.



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Hotel

'Superior Room' at [Hotel Vivanta](#) or similar



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**Aurangabad -
Nashik**

1 night
12 Sept

After breakfast we will drive to Nashik, home to **SULA Winery**, located in the Nashik region of Western India. SULA was founded by Rajeev Samant and has grown to be India's largest and most awarded wine brand. You have the opportunity to visit this impressive vineyard and winery, to tour the facility, to appreciate how the wine is produced by a specialist wine guide and to have a wine tasting session in the unique surrounds. This will be a unique afternoon experience as we head towards the closure of our journey.



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Hotel

'Superior Room' at [Radisson Blu](#) or similar

**Nashik – Mumbai
International
Airport**

Out 13th Sept

A late check out from our beautiful hotel gives us a morning and early afternoon to be prepared for our evening flight home. You will be taken to the airport direct from Nashik, after a morning and early afternoon of shopping/relaxing/swimming, or whatever you would like. Your flight is late evening so we will ensure you are dropped off at the airport with time to spare.



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Flights to India and back home again

As your itinerary may vary from this tour, your flights and carrier is at your selection. We are happy to assist in your decision making if this is helpful.

Hosted Tour Experience

AUD \$4,892.00 full experience including accommodation (excluding airfares)

*Flight Mumbai to Bangalore AUD \$183.00 *Flight Goa to Pune AUD \$169.00

- Price based on per person twin-share, flexibility with dates may be able to be accommodated.
- Luxury 8 to 10 guests private tour, quality accommodation, fine cuisine.

Land Only Costs Include

- Accommodation on bed and breakfast basis as per mentioned above hotels or similar
- Early hotel check-in and late check-out, where possible, subject to availability
- All sightseeing, excursions; transfers using A/C Minibus (8-10 pax) as per program
- Parking, permits, gasoline, border taxes for the vehicle
- Services of accompanied English speaking escort for the entire duration of the program
- All Monument/Temple entrance fees as noted
- English speaking guides

Land Only Costs Exclude

- Any additional activities/unique experience in the program on direct payment basis
- Any item of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone calls, etc.
- Camera fees (still/video) at any monuments
- Visa fees
- Any additional meals (unless specified)

Terms and Conditions

Land only prices exclude flights from Melbourne. \$1500 per person non-refundable deposit required at time of booking. Deposit is only refundable should **DFAT** issue a 'Do Not Travel' alert on their website within 30 days of departure. Otherwise, booking is non-refundable & dates are non-changeable once booking is confirmed. Please note above pricing is correct at time of printing. Pricing can change due to fluctuations. You are responsible for all visas, entry, health and other requirements and any documents required by laws, regulations, orders and/or requirements of countries visited. Pillow Menu Tours is not responsible for passport and visa requirements or for any loss you sustain for failing to comply with laws, regulations, orders and/or requirements of countries visited. The health and safety of our guests has always been our priority. Now more than ever it has been essential to revise and upgrade our Health and Safety policy. Effective immediately we will be implementing the below procedures for every guest that travels with us. All our guides have also undertaken a registered Covid-19 health and safety course.

COVID Response

- Proof of COVID vaccination (and booster) required in order to travel with Pillow Menu Tours.
- Antibacterial hand gel, face masks and single use gloves will be available on board.
- The exterior and interior of our vehicle is being thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day.
- All vehicles exterior and interior touch points will be sterilized prior to each individual guest boarding.
- Our friendly and professional guides will warmly welcome guests but will not shake hands. As always however, our guides will open and close the vehicle door. Guides will thoroughly clean their hands using alcohol based liquid gel and wash their hands with soap and water where possible.
- Consideration will be taken in relation to vehicle loads.

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