

SOUTH INDIA DAZZLING DISCOVERIES

24th October to 9th November 2025



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, visit 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 and Cangalute where we will stay. And there is still more... Aurangabad, Nashik (now it's time for the famous 'SULA' Winery for lunch, tastings and an afternoon of relaxation). A great time in Nashik, and a leisurely drive to Mumbai International Airport for your flight back to Australia.

<u>Program</u>

Mumbai

3 nights 24, 25 & 26 Oct On arrival in Mumbai you will be met and transferred to our exotic 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 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.

It was at the Taj Mahal Hotel where a series of terrorist attacks took place in November 2008. The Taj Mahal Hotel was the first and most ferocious of all the attacks and lasted 4 long days. The strong history of this hotel at this dark time in Mumbai's history remains a cultural and iconic memory to all of India's fight for freedom and YOU have a chance to live it!





'Deluxe Room' at <u>Taj Mahal Tower Hotel</u>

Mumbai

Hotel

- Hampi

Hotel

3 nights 27, 28 & 29 Oct

We will leave our Mumbai hotel and fly to Hubballi, 3hr minibus to Hampi. Staying at the beautiful 'Hampi Heritage Resort' our activities will start the following day after lounging by the pool and in our villas. The next two days 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.

'Deluxe Private Villa' at <u>Hampi Heritage Resort</u> or similar





Hampi - Goa - Palolem Beach

3 nights 30, 31 Oct & 1 Nov

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 at Palolem Beach, we will have the chance to walk the beaches located near 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. 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.

'Deluxe Pool View Rooms' at <u>Sobit Sarovar Hotel</u> or similar





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Palolem Beach - Calangute

A beautiful 1.5-hour drive to yet another paradise. Laze by the pool and relax in our expansive resort in the middle of everything.

3 nights 2, 3 & 4 Nov

Hotel

Hotel

'King Pool View Room' at <u>Andores Resort & Spa</u> or similar



Goa – Aurangabad

2 nights 5 & 6 Nov We will fly from Goa 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 thirty 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

Aurangabad -Nashik

2 nights 7 & 8 Nov 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 wine guide and to have a wine tasting session in the unique surrounds. In addition, we shall visit the Trimbakeshwar Jystirling Temple, with sacred pond thought to be the start of the Godowari River.



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Hotel

'Superior Room' at **Radisson Blu** or similar

Nashik – MumbaiCheck 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.



Click me

Flights to India and back home again

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

Hosted Tour Experience

1. AUD \$ 5,462.00 Full experience including accommodation (excluding airfares)

2. AUD \$ 192.00 Flight Mumbai to Hubballi

3. AUD \$ 297.00 Flight Goa to Aurangabad

• Prices will be based on per person twin-share, flexibility with dates may be able to be accommodated.

Land Only Costs Include

- Accommodation on bed and breakfast basis as per mentioned above hotels or similar
- All sightseeing, excursions; transfers using A/C Minibus (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
- 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. 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 currency 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.

Kehren Eade +61 419 395 614 or <u>kehreneade@gmail.com</u> Rakesh Singh +91 96508 35482 or <u>rsinghg1990@gmail.com</u> <u>www.pillowmenutours.com</u>