

INTERNATIONAL SEA CADET ASSOCIATION
CONFERENCE 2009
REGATTA 2209



TRAINING SHIP JAWAHAR & SCC BOATING STATION

Goa

Goa, the coastal paradise located in South Western India is popular for its sun kissed sandy beaches, easygoing life style, and various fairs and festivals. The relaxed and tranquil atmosphere of Goa makes it a popular destination among tourists seeking sun, sand, watersports and seafood.

In North Goa, the state capital Panaji, also know as Panjim offers a glimpse into small town life and distinctive heritage architecture. You can also explore the still-Portuguese flavoured town of Old Goa, with its World Heritage listed churches and monuments. The town of Mapusa comes alive on Fridays with its colourful markets, and the beaches of Candolim and Sinquerim, offer some spectacular views. Anjuna, Vagator, Baga & Calangute are some of the other hugely popular beaches of the north.

South Goa beaches are less explored and are ideal for those wanting a quiet holiday, "away from it all". Popular beaches on the southern belt include Betalbatim, Colva, Benaulim, Varca and Palolem in the far south of the State. One can also visit Chandor, with its quaint and well preserved Portuguese houses to get a flavour of Goa's history.

Getting to Goa - One can get to Goa from Mumbai easily – a short 45 min flight away with several flights each day costing under US\$ 200.- for a round trip or one can take the train (12 hours / overnight as well as day trains available – advance reservation is a must).

Accommodation is available to suit all budgets – starting from US\$ 30.- per night to US\$ 300.- One can rent a coco-hut, a house on stilts bang on the beach or opt for budget, boutique or star-class hotels. One can avail of a package for 2 to 3 nights inclusive of accommodation and breakfast for approx. US\$250.- which would also include airport transfers and a tour of some of the places of interest.

One can even break up one's stay in Goa to spend some time in north Goa and a couple of days in the south and/or throw in a side trip to the ancient city of Hampi, which is 315 km from Goa, accessible by rail/road.

Hampi

In the midst of boulders, rocks and ruins Hampi looks splendid throughout the year. Hampi was the former capital of a great Hindu empire in the Deccan plateau. In its heyday it was a fairytale city with many temples, palaces and the most beautiful of mansions. The city was robbed of all its strength and splendor in 1565 AD when the then ruler Rama Raya was defeated and killed by a confederation of Mughal kings. The remains of the capital and its many temples is overwhelming in its splendour.

You'll probably arrive at Hampi main bazaar. From there you can explore the whole area. Visit the temples or gaze at the rocky landscape with its winding river and then all of a sudden, in the middle of nowhere, the ruins of the World Heritage Vittala Temple Complex with its famous stone chariot, many pillars and lovely smelling jasmine trees. Hampi can also be visited as a (two) day trip from either Goa or Bangalore.

One of the nicer hotels in the area is Shanthi Guest House.

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Across the river from Hampi Bazar - Hampi Island

They have en suite rooms with breakfast (all non A/c) for between Rs. 850 to Rs. 1200.- (Approx. US\$ 20-30)

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The Golden Triangle - Delhi/ Agra/ Jaipur

You begin your trip of the golden triangle from the capital city of Delhi. A tour of the city would include visiting both the old city and New Delhi. Delhi has been a capital city for centuries with a rich and glorious past complete with a wealth of monuments and forts of both historical and architectural importance.

A trip to India is considered incomplete without a visit to the Taj Mahal in the city of Agra, in north India. Agra is your next halt and besides the Taj Mahal, the visit includes some architectural marvels of the Moghul era including the Fatehpur Sikri.

From Agra the trip continues onto Jaipur in the colourful dessert state of Rajasthan where a trip around this enchanting city will include a visit to the City Palace, an impressive structure combining Moghul and Rajput styles; A walk around the Jantar Mantar, an open-air laboratory of architectural astronomical instruments, built by Maharaja (King) Jai Singh II at his then new capital of Jaipur between 1727 and 1734. He had constructed a total of five such labs at different locations, including the ones at Delhi and Jaipur. The Jaipur observatory is the largest of these.

From Jaipur, the trip takes you back to Delhi for your onward journey. The proposed itinerary is appended below in detail:

6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS ITINERARY FOR GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Day 01 Arrive Delhi

Upon arrival in Delhi you will be met, garlanded and then transferred to hotel.

Overnight at Hotel in Delhi

Day 02 Delhi

At 0900 hrs you will be taken for **morning tour Old Delhi** visit Raj Ghat, Jama Masjid, Chandni Chowk, and Red Fort.

At 1400 hrs you will be taken for **afternoon tour New Delhi** visit Humayun's Tomb, Qutab Minar, India Gate, (Parliament House from outside).

Overnight at Hotel in Delhi

Day 03 Delhi / Agra (203 kms, 5 hours drive)

At 0800 hrs you will be driven from Delhi to Agra via Sikandra and Check in at hotel.

At 1400 hrs you will be taken on **afternoon tour of Agra** visiting Agra Fort, Local market and ofcourse The Taj Mahal with it's lacy white grandeur, it is perhaps the most perfect architectural monument in the world. Built by Shah Jahan, the Taj Mahal remains today, as a symbol of his eternal love for his wife, Mumtaz.

Overnight at Hotel in Agra

Day 04 Agra / Jaipur (235 kms, 5 hours drive)

At 0800 hrs you will be driven Agra to Jaipur via **Fatehpur Sikri** - the Deserted City built by Akbar the great. After the tour continue drive to Jaipur and Check in at hotel.

Rest of the day free to relax or do your own shopping.

(If needed Car & Driver will be offered free, at your Disposal)

Overnight at Hotel in Jaipur

Day 05 Jaipur

At 0800 hrs, you will be taken on a **tour of Amber Fort** where you will see a marvellous example of Rajput architecture with it's terraces and ramparts reflected in the Maota Lake below the ascent to the fort is on gaily decorated Elephants. The Fort interior has various royal halls decorated with intricate ivory work, exquisite wall paintings & tiny mirror chips, which create a tantalising reflection effect.

At 1400 hrs enjoy **city tour of Jaipur** including the City Palace Museum, an imposing blend of traditional Rajasthani and Mughal art. Continue on to visit the Jantar Mantar, an amazingly advanced observatory built in 1726 AD. You will also visit Hawa Mahal, the Palace of Winds, a five storied wonder with a spectacular pyramidal facade and overhanging windows with latticed screens, domes and spires.

Overnight at Hotel in Jaipur

Day 06

Jaipur / Delhi (258 kms, 6 hours drive)

At 0930 hrs you will be driven from Jaipur to Delhi and drop off at place to be advised.

Services will terminate here...

Notes:-

1) Check in / Checkout time of most of the hotels is 1200 hrs (Noon Time)

2) Red Fort monument in Delhi is closed every Monday whereas Taj Mahal Monument in Agra is closed Every Friday due to their weekly maintenance.

The trip (5 nights/ 6 days) would cost approx. USD475 -570.- per head for a minimum of 2 persons and max. of a group of 9 persons. For the best rate per head, it is advised to be in groups of either 4 persons or 6 to 9 persons.

The cost would vary depending on the number of persons in the vehicle (air conditioned large car like Toyota Qualis/ Innova – for upto 4 persons / air conditioned 8-9 seater for a larger group).

Price includes: (exactly as per above itinerary)

1. Accommodation inclusive of complimentary breakfast for 5 nights
2. transfers, tours, excursion by air conditioned vehicle
3. service of local English speaking guide during tours in respective cities
4. Entrance fee at monuments
5. Elephant ride in Jaipur
6. All relevant taxes including 3.09% Govt of India Service Tax.

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Kerala

Also known as God's own country, Kerala state is situated on the south western corner of the Indian peninsula. There are a lot of interesting travel options within the state and one can easily spend 5-7 nights and cover some backwaters as well as tea plantations and spend a day walking through the historic town in Fort Cochin and around.

Getting into Kerala – Cochin is connected by direct daily flights out of Mumbai that would cost approx. US\$ 200.- for a round trip from Mumbai.

From there on, exploring the rest of Kerala can be done by hiring an air-conditioned car with driver from a reliable car company. A round trip from Cochin to Munnar and then onto Kumarakom (backwaters) and return to Cochin (4 nights out) is about 600 km and would cost approx. US\$ 120.-

Accommodation throughout can be organised to suit various budgets. Recommendations (all prices are for twin/double rooms): In Cochin, The Fort house hotel (www.hotelforthouse.com) would cost approx. US\$ 85.- per night. For a star class hotel, one has the option of Hotel Taj Malabar (www.tajhotels.com) which would cost approx. US\$ 145.- plus tax.

In Munnar, we are looking at various options in the range of US\$ 40 and 80.-

In Kumarakom, it would be ideal to experience traditional Kerala hospitality at a home-stay (www.gkhomestay-kumarakom.com) at a charge of approx. US\$ 40.- inclusive of 2 delicious home-cooked meals.

Charges for boat trips on the backwaters and entrance fees etc. for monuments would be additional.

Cochin

Kochi (Cochin) is the palm-green commercial town of Kerala consisting of the mainland Ernakulam, Willingdon Island, Mattancherry, Fort Cochin, Vypeen Island and Bolghatty Island. Ernakulam is the where shopping market, bazaar etc are located. From time immemorial, Arab, Chinese, Dutch and British and Portuguese seafarers followed the sea route to Kochi and left their impression on the town. The Chinese fishing nets swaying in the breeze over backwaters, the Jewish Synagogue, Dutch Palace, Portuguese architecture, Boghatty Palace in Kochi enrich the heritage of Kerala.

Munnar

Munnar, 132km from Cochin, is one of the most popular hill stations in India is situated at the confluence of three mountain streams - Mudrapuzha, Nallathanni and Kundala in the southern Indian state of Kerala (God's own country!).

Located at 1600 m above sea level, Munnar was once a summer resort in the erstwhile British Government in South India. Sprawling tea plantations, picture book towns, winding lanes, trekking and holiday facilities make Munnar a unique experience. There are a host of sightseeing options like lakes, waterfalls, viewpoints and numerous walking trails in and around the green-carpeted landscape of tea gardens.

Kumarakom/ Aymanam

GK Riverview homestay, situated on the bank of river Meenachil in Aymanam is just 3 kilometres from the huge Vembanad Lake and bird sanctuary, 10 kilometres from Kottayam railway station and 100km from Kochi. The village is an unbelievably beautiful paradise of mangrove forests, emerald green paddy (rice) fields and coconut groves interspersed with enchanting water ways and canals adorned with spices and medicinal plants. It is an ideal place to explore Kerala's traditions, real village life and to stay for a period in a calm and quiet pollution free zone. The village is decorated with ancient Christian churches, Hindu temples, and country and snake boats. These snake boats can carry more than 100 rowers at a time. A boat journey through the narrow meandering back waters is an unforgettable experience.