

Caves and Frescoes of ancient India - MUMBAI / AURANGABAD

Day - 01 **Bengaluru / Mumbai** **By air**

Morning breakfast at hotel and transfer to airport to catch flight for Mumbai. (IT 104 – 0900 / 1035 hrs.)

Arrive Mumbai. Transfer and check-in at hotel.

Mumbai, the capital city of Maharashtra State, formerly known as Bombay lies in the southwestern part of India. In 17th century Mumbai was given by Portuguese as dowry to Charles II of England when he married Catherine. The group of seven islands was leased to the East India Company who offered freedom of business and religion to persons who came and settled here. Today it is a commercial capital, industrial powerhouse, busiest port and a fashion capital and has the world's biggest textile market. Mumbai is the hub of Indian film industry, which has played a pivotal role in the development of cinematography. "Bollywood", as it is called, produces the second most number of pictures in the world every year, next only to Hollywood, U.S.A. Mumbai claims to be the world's largest production centre for films.



Afternoon visiting / viewing - **The Prince of Wales Museum** This museum stands not too far from the Gateway of India. It has a priceless collection of art, sculpture, china and other antiques. Carefully preserved, this mid-Victorian Gothic style building built in 1904 with beautiful gardens surrounding it, is worth visiting in Mumbai.

Gate Way of India - Mumbai's most famous landmark, The Gateway of India, is situated at Apollo Bunder. It was designed by George Wikket. It was built to commemorate the visit of King George V and Queen Mary to India in 1911.

Overnight at hotel.

Day - 02 **Mumbai / Aurangabad** **By Air**

Breakfast at hotel

0800 hrs Morning excursion to Elephanta caves, a UNESCO World Heritage site, known in ancient times as Gharapuri. The present name Elephanta, was given by 17th century Portuguese explorers, after seeing a monolithic basalt sculpture of an elephant found here near the entrance. This island is a popular tourist destination for a day trip because of the island's cave temples, the Elephanta Caves, that have been carved out of rock. The island is easily accessible by ferry from Mumbai, being about 10 km from the south east coast of the island city. Boats leave daily from the Gateway of India, taking about an hour each way for the journey subject to the weather conditions and the tide on the sea.



Afternoon in time transfer to airport to board flight for Aurangabad IC 887 - 1555/1640 hrs.

Arrive Aurangabad. Transfer and check-in at hotel.

The city of Aurangabad is known for its medieval monuments and cultural heritage. It was the seat of the Mughal Empire for a short period. The city boasts of Bibi-ka-Makbara, a tomb that has some resemblance to the Taj Mahal. The importance of Aurangabad is great, owing to its proximity with world heritage sites of Ajanta and Ellora. These sites have Buddhist, Jain and Hindu temples. Aurangabad is also famous for its silk and cotton textiles.

Overnight at hotel.

Day - 03 **Aurangabad**

Breakfast at hotel. Later proceed for full day trip to Ajanta Caves.

Ajanta's wondrous cave temples are cut into the rocky sides of a dramatic crescent-shaped gorge, at the head of which is a waterfall that drops over the mountain rim in a series of seven steps to a pool far below – the Saptakund. Dating back to the 2nd century B.C., deep inside the mountain are the Buddhist chaitya – vihara prayer and monastery caves. They cover a span of 800 years where under the royal patronage of ruling dynasties, professional artists helped Buddhist monks to create magnificent murals narrating the story of Buddha in his cycle of incarnations, while simultaneously creating a painted record of the panorama of life in ancient India. Etched and painted in mineral dyes, the paintings have a langourous stylised beauty and magical eloquence. The Ajanta Caves are a World Heritage site.



Overnight at hotel.

Day - 04 **Aurangabad / Mumbai** **By Air**

Breakfast at hotel. Later proceed for half day visit to Ellora caves.

The famous rock cut caves temples of Ellora depict the Hindu, Buddhist and Jain faiths, and were constructed between the 5th and 8th centuries A.D. Of particular interest are the architectural marvel of the monolithic Kailasa temple, the Buddhist Vishvakarma chaitya and vihara, the famous Jain cave number 32 famous for a magnificent Yakshi statue and ceiling paintings. Every December, MTDC organises the Ellora festival of music and dance at the Kailasa Temple. The Ellora Caves have been declared a World Heritage site.

Later in time transfer to airport to board flight for Mumbai. IC 888 – 1720 / 1810.

Upon arrival in Mumbai connect flight for onward journey.

*****END OF SERVICES*****

Tour Cost in INR (Indian Rupee)

Number of Persons traveling together	Twin Sharing (Per person)	Single Room (Supplement)
Minimum 22 Pax	17500	12750

Airfare Supplement

Sector	Class	Airfare (per person)
Bengaluru / Mumbai Mumbai / Aurangabad Aurangabad / Mumbai	Economy	13300

Hotels envisaged :

City	Hotel	Room Type	Meal Plan
Mumbai	Le Royal Meridien	Classic Room	Breakfast
Aurangabad	Taj Residency	Deluxe	Breakfast

Tour cost includes

- Accommodation at Mumbai (01 night) and Aurangabad (02 nights) total 03 nights on bed, breakfast and taxes basis
- All transportation, sightseeing and excursions as per itinerary using exclusive Air-conditioned deluxe coach.
- Services of a Government approved local English speaking guide during sight seeing
- Assistance at airports and hotels from local representatives
- Entrance tickets to monuments as per itinerary

Tour cost does not includes

- Any items of personal nature like tips, laundry, telephone, room service, portage etc.
- Meals, other than breakfast
- Airfare (wherever required) is specified extra. Current fares have been listed that are subject to change / revision at the time of booking.
- Movie camera ticket etc., wherever applicable is extra and payable directly

Note:

- Shopping opportunity for local handicrafts will be provided during sight seeing tours.