Bombay Beaches Caves 11 Days

Journey through the state of Maharashtra, aboard the Deccan Odyssey, an exclusive luxury train. Visiting Mumbai, home of Bollywood, the beaches of tropical Goa, and the stunning caves of Ajanta and Ellora, this is a 5 star holiday to remember!

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Mumbai / Ends in: Mumbai
- Departs: any day of the year
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:10, Lunch: 4, Dinner: 5
- Hotel Rating: Superior
- Tour Guide: Yes (for locally included sights)

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - click here
- To book this trip - click here
- To enquire about this trip - click here

TOUR MAP:

QUICK WEB LINKS

India Prices ::: Why Us for India? ::: Best Places to Visit ::: Best Time to Visit ::: India Reviews ::: Hotels in India ::: India - Useful Info ::: FAQs on India ::: India Visas ::: India Gallery

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Day 1: Mumbai

Once you arrive into Mumbai, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel where the rest of the day is free to explore Mumbai or relax at the hotel. Overnight - Mumbai

Day 2: Mumbai

Mumbai or Bombay, as it was formerly known - remains India's city of dreams. Today we embark on a glittering city tour, with a morning visit to the cave temples of Elephanta Island sculpted during the 5th to the 8th centuries. In the afternoon visit the Prince of Wales museum, Marine Drive and the Mani Bhawan Jain temple. Overnight - Mumbai

Day 3: City Walk

This morning take a guided heritage walking tour, visiting the main buildings in South Mumbai, which form an integral part of the cities architectural heritage. Late this afternoon embark upon further exploration of the city, visiting the Afghani Church and the holy Banganga Tank - an ancient water tank built over a freshwater spring under the Silhara dynasty in the 14th century. The spring is believed to be an underground offshoot of the Ganges, so the waters are considered just as sacred and effective for healing as those of the great river itself. This evening enjoy a leisurely horse and buggy ride along Marine Drive toward Chowpatty beach. Overnight - Mumbai

Day 4: Goa

Mumbai - Goa. Flying south to the former Portuguese enclave of Goa we enjoy some fun in the sun. Goa is renowned for palm-fringed sandy beaches, exotic cuisine and heavy Portuguese influence in the form of white-washed, terracotta tile-clad architecture and Catholicism. Goa can be explored at ease with long sandy beaches in the south and Panaji - the old city in the north. Overnight - Goa

Day 5: Goa

Mid morning embark upon the old city sightseeing tour of the Convent and Church of St Francis of Assisi built in 1661 and the Basilica of Bom Jesus is famous throughout the Roman Catholic world, as it contains the mortal remains of St Francis Xavier who in 1541 spread Christianity among subjects of the Portuguese colonies in the east.

Late this afternoon you check in to the Deccan Odyssey - an opulent train comprising 10 luxurious carriages, each with approximately 4 themed cabins. There are lounge carriages, a dining carriage, bar, laundry and maid service, staffed to the highest standard to ensure you have the experience of a lifetime.

This evening you will enjoy a traditional Goan meal with entertainment at the Beach Resort Hotel Overnight - Train

Day 6: Kolhapur

Goa - Kolhapur Town. Morning arrive at Kolhapur -an ancient city famous for a selection of reasons including its food, headwear, footwear, jewellery, wrestling and religious connections.

Later you proceed to visit the 19th century built Royal Palace and museum which houses some of India's rarest paintings and archaeological artifacts.Later you visit the exquisitely carved Mahalaxmi Hindu Temple. You will also witness a traditional ancient Martial Arts exhibition locally known as "Mardani Khel" of which written evidence of its existence dates back to around the 2nd century BC. Followed by free time, a great opportunity to purchase some of the renowned local products such as Kolhapuri cotton saris, local jewellery,leather sandals and Kolhapuri chappals (the Indian version of flip flops). Then return to your magnificent train for lunch before the train departs for. Afternoon and evening at leisure. Overnight - Train

Days 7 - 8: Ellora Caves

Kolhapur Town - Aurangabad. Our morning is spent touring the majestic 12th century Fort Daulatabad one of the world's best preserved forts of medieval times. Later explore the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Ellora caves comprising of 34 cave temples dedicated to three different religions - Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. The last stop is Bibi-ka-Maqbara - a 17th century

mausoleum similar in style to that of the Taj Mahal, afternoon at leisure.

Day 8, morning excursion jeep safari through Tadoba National Park, home to Indian bison, tigers, jackals, crocodiles and a variety of other wildlife. This Afternoon visit Mahatma Gandhi's ashram at Sevagram or the 'Village of Service'. Gandhi made this his home in later years using it as a base for some of his most momentous political decisions during India's struggle for freedom. Overnight - Train

Day 9:

Ellora - Ajanta. Older than the Ellora caves (200 BC to 650 AD) the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Buddhist caves of Ajanta are also cut from the volcanic lava.

They reside on the near-vertical, horse-shoe shaped ravine known as the 'Deccan Trap'. Lost to the world after the 7th century it was discovered by accident in 1819, by a party of British officers on a hunting expedition. This morning visit some of the 30 caves, boasting remarkably preserved frescoes created and painted using minerals, ochres and lime.

Returning to the Odyssey, lunch is served onboard. As the wagon strikes west you arrive at Nasik - located on the Godavari River, one of the holiest rivers of the Deccan. Visit the riverbanks, lined with temples and colourful bathing ghats witnessing the countless pilgrims, beggars, sadhus, traders and religious specialists performing their daily rituals. This evening marks your last night on board as you continue travelling westward arriving in Mumbai in the early hours of the morning. Overnight - Train

Day 10: Mumbai

Ajanta - Mumbai. Breakfast on board and onward transfer and hotel check in. Free day at leisure, perhaps a final walk along Chowpatty Beach or a spot of shopping in the popular Kalbadevi and Bhuleshwar bazaars. Overnight - Mumbai

Day 11: Mumbai

Hotel check-out and included onward transfer to airport.

WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

- Mumbai - Gateway to India. The Prince of Wales museum, Dhobi ghats and Elephanta Caves
- Tropical Goa - The Convent and Church of St Francis of Assisi and the Basilica of Bom Jesus
- Kolhapur - the land of magnificent temples.
- Aurangabad - Fort Daulatabad 'The city of fortune'. Ellora caves and Bibi-ka-Maqbara (17th century mausoleum)
- Ajanta - UNESCO World Heritage Listed Buddhist caves
- Nasik - riverside and Panchwati Ghats
- Tadoba National Park - Maharashtra's oldest and largest national park.

What's Included

- 10 breakfast, 4 lunches, 5 dinners
- 5 nights superior hotels (Deluxe hotels available upon request)
- 5 nights - Deccan Odyssey luxury train
- Boat excursion to Elephanta Caves
- Economy class flight - Mumbai - Goa

- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 11
- Touring and excursions as per itinerary
- Local English speaking specialist guides
- Entrance fees to all included sights
- Chauffeur driven air-conditioned vehicles and touring coaches
- Open jeep safari - Tadoba National Park

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture

PRICES AND DATES: from USD $6,589

Prices shown are 'per person', based on a travelling party of at least 2 adults. The single supplement price needs to be added to the twin/double price if single rooms are required. If travelling solo, an additional '1-person' supplement will apply. Prices are indicative and will vary depending on your chosen hotels, room availability as well as time of travel i.e. during India's peak travel season of 21 Dec - 10 Jan, additional supplements will apply. Equally, if you with to travel to India during the summer, rates will be cheaper than those quoted.. Please bear this in mind if comparing prices as we always aim to deliver exceptional value. This itinerary is based upon superior accommodation. Deluxe properties are also available upon request. Please note that discounts will apply if there are more 4 our more people in your travelling party, since fixed costs like transportation and guiding are shared across the group.

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.