

Aboard the Deccan Odyssey

10 days | Starts/Ends: Mumbai



PRIVATE TOUR: 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!

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

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
- Ajanta – UNESCO World Heritage Listed Buddhist caves
- Aurangabad – Visit the beautiful Ellora cave complex
- Kolhapur – The land of magnificent temples
- Sindhudurg – Explore Sindhudurg Fort and Town
- Nashik – Riverside and Panchwati Ghats

What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 6 lunches and 7 dinners

- 2 nights SUPERIOR hotels. DELUXE hotel options are also available upon request. Accommodation rating – See Trip Notes for details
- 7 nights – Deccan Odyssey luxury train
- Boat excursion to Elephanta Caves
- Touring and excursions as per itinerary
- Services of a licensed English speaking tour guide at some sites
- Entrance fees to all included sights
- An airport arrival transfer day 1 and a departure transfer day 10
- Chauffeur driven air-conditioned vehicles and touring coaches for all relevant transfers

What's Not Included

- International flights and visa
- Tipping – An entirely personal gesture

DETAILED ITINERARY

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 City Tour

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 enjoy a sightseeing tour of the city, and in the evening a leisurely horse and buggy ride along Marine Drive. **Overnight – Mumbai (B)**

Day 3 : Heritage Walking Tour



Mumbai – Nashik. This morning take a guided heritage walking tour, visiting the main buildings in South Mumbai, which form an integral part of the city's architectural heritage. Late this afternoon transfer to the train station to board the opulent Deccan Odyssey train, which will be your home for the next seven nights. After enjoying a welcome drink and completing formalities your train will depart

Aboard the Deccan Odyssey – 10 days

www.onthegotours.com - info@onthegotours.com
 UK 020 4571 1381 USA 866 616 5394
 IRE 1800 936 885 CAN 866 890 7038
 AUS 1300 855 684 SA 0800 990 337
 NZ 0800 44 77 69

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

Aboard the Deccan Odyssey

Mumbai for Nashik. **Overnight - Deccan Odyssey** (B, D)

Day 4 : Vineyard Tour and Tasting

Nashik - Aurangabad. Arriving into Nashik this morning you'll disembark and explore the Godavari Ghats where you can observe Hindu rituals being performed. You'll then continue through the market, observing the hustle and bustle of local life.

Later you'll continue to the Grover Zampa vineyards to tour one of India's finest wine producing vineyards. Grapes such as Chenin, Chardonnay and Shiraz are grown here and your sommelier will introduce you to the different wines produced here.

After a delicious lunch you'll re-board the Deccan Odyssey and depart for Aurangabad. **Overnight - Deccan Odyssey** (B, L, D)

Day 5 : Ellora Caves



Aurangabad - Jalgon. After breakfast this morning the train will reach Aurangabad in Maharashtra state, you'll then proceed to the UNESCO-listed Ellora Caves, comprising of 34 cave temples dedicated to three different religions - Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism. There 12 Buddhist caves to the south, 17 Hindu caves in the center and 5 Jain caves to the north. The star attraction of the caves is Kailash temple, which is believed to be a replica of Lord Shiva's celestial abode on Mt. Kailash. We return to the train for lunch and a relaxing afternoon as the

train makes it's way towards Jalgon. **Overnight - Deccan Odyssey** (B, L, D)

Day 6 : Ajanta Caves

Jalgaon - Kolhapur. As you enjoy a delicious breakfast, the Deccan Odyssey rolls into Jalgaon station, from here you'll drive to the UNESCO-listed Ajanta Caves. Here discover magnificent caves with exquisite ancient murals and sculptures depicting the life of Buddha. Older than the Ellora caves (200 BC to 650 AD) the Buddhist caves of Ajanta are also cut from the volcanic lava.

Back on board enjoy a delicious lunch and perhaps partake in some of the optional activities available on board, such as a film screening, a traditional game of carrom or a relaxing massage at the onboard spa. **Overnight - Deccan Odyssey** (B, L, D)

Day 7 : Kolhapur Royal Palace



Kolhapur - Goa. Take in the beautiful surroundings of Maharashtra state as your train rolls into the city of Kolhapur this morning. Today you'll explore Kolhapur - an ancient city with a mythical past. First stop is the 19th century built Royal Palace and museum which houses some of India's rarest paintings and archaeological artifacts. You'll then visit the Town Hall museum before some time to shop at the local market. Later visit the exquisitely carved Mahalakshmi Hindu Temple, this 1,300 year old temple is dedicated to the Goddess Shakti. There may also be the opportunity to witness a traditional ancient Martial Arts exhibition locally known as "Mardani Khel". This evening

the Deccan Odyssey will depart for the party capital of India, Goa.

Overnight - Deccan Odyssey (B, L, D)

Day 8 : Goa



Goa - Sindhudurg. Enjoy a day in the former Portuguese enclave of Goa with some fun in the sun. Start by visiting Fontainhas, the Latin Quarters of Panjim that have some well-preserved houses built in the Portuguese architectural style. You'll experience the culture of this UNESCO World Heritage area on a walking tour. Next we visit Ribandar, the former capital of Goa. Take a walk through ancient churches and the ruins of the St. Augustine tower which was once the pride of Goa. Enjoy a drive to the Sahakari spice plantation for a traditional Goan feast which will have influence from 400 years of Portuguese rule. After lunch, enjoy a Goan folk performance and a tour of the spice plantation. Take a sneak peek into Goan life with a visit to an old Portuguese house before you return to the train and travel through the incredibly scenic Konkan region en route to Ratnagiri. **Overnight - Deccan Odyssey** (B, L, D)

Day 9 : Sindhudurg Fort

Sindhudurg - Mumbai. Today the train enters Sindhudurg, after breakfast you'll disembark and visit the Sindhudurg Fort, located off the shores of Malvan on the Arabian Sea. Built by Shivaji Maharaj, it was an attempt to curb the rise in influence from foreign colonisers. This afternoon you'll take a tour of the highlights of the holy city of Sindhudurg before rejoining the train to

Aboard the Deccan Odyssey - 10 days

www.onthegotours.com - info@onthegotours.com
 UK 020 4571 1381 USA 866 616 5394
 IRE 1800 936 885 CAN 866 890 7038
 AUS 1300 855 684 SA 0800 990 337
 NZ 0800 44 77 69

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

updated on 05-10-2022 01:12:59

Aboard the Deccan Odyssey

take the journey to Mumbai. **Overnight - Deccan Odyssey** (B, L, D)

Day 10 : Mumbai

Arrive in Mumbai where your journey on the Deccan Odyssey comes to an end. Breakfast onboard before transfer to airport for onward travel.(B)

BEFORE YOU GO

Tipping

Tipping is an essential part of the culture. For a job well done, we would suggest for your tour guide: USD \$4-7 per traveller, for each day of sightseeing.

For your driver and On The Go Representative we'd recommend USD\$2-3 per traveller for each day of service. Tipping is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

Accommodation ratings

On our Private trips, you can often choose your style of accommodation. The price quoted on our website is reflective of the included accommodation, please see the "included" section on the first page of this document for details. Should you opt for an alternative hotel category, this will be confirmed in writing with the respective price on your invoice.

For further details about the indicative hotels, please see the "hotels" tab on our website. Here we rank hotel's in their respective country (REGIONAL CATEGORY) - but we also tell you how it ranks by Western standards (OUR CATEGORY).

STANDARD - Equates to a Western 3-star standard, always featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant.
SUPERIOR - Equates to a Western 4-star standard, featuring en-suite rooms and usually a restaurant and often a swimming pool and/or a fitness centre.
DELUXE - Equates to a Western 5-star standard, usually featuring spacious,

en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, excellent service and customer care.

LUXURY - Equates to a Western 5-star plus standard - the creme de la creme. Featuring spacious, en-suite rooms, a restaurant, swimming pool and fitness centre and an array of amenities, this accommodation is a cut above the rest. Sheer opulence!

India Country Guide

Welcome to India - Arrival transfer

If your holiday includes a complimentary airport arrival transfer (as indicated in the 'Inclusions' section of these Trip Notes on page 1) from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, our arrival procedure is as follows:

Arrive to Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, where after you have attended to customs and immigration formalities, please proceed to the arrival hall. Please have your tour voucher handy and make it available to our representative who will be waiting for you in the arrivals hall, holding a prominent On The Go Tours logo signboard, ready to escort you to our awaiting transportation and onward to your start hotel.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes in the arrival hall) or your flight is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher. Please do not leave the airport or go to the hotel on your own. Call our emergency contact number and follow the advice given by our local team.

If travelling on our other India holidays that don't arrive into Delhi Airport (with arrival via Kochi, Cochin, Goa, Mumbai, Chennai, Trivandrum, Kolkata and

Dimapur Airport), the procedure for meeting you at the airport is the same as those detailed above.

Pre and post tour accommodation can be arranged upon request, please contact us for rates. If you are arriving early and book pre tour accommodation with us then you will still qualify for our complimentary airport arrival transfer.

If arriving prior to 9am on day 1 (essentially on a flight that arrives very, very early in the morning) consider purchasing a night of pre-tour accommodation to save you waiting until hotel check in time, which is generally 2pm.

Visas & passports

Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from India.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. For information about visas, head to www.onthegotours.com/India/Visas

Health requirements

You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

Water

As tap water is not safe to drink in India, only drink bottled mineral water which is readily available in hotels, shops and restaurants. You should also avoid salads which may be washed in unhygienic water.

Aboard the Deccan Odyssey - 10 days

www.onthegotours.com - info@onthegotours.com
 UK 020 4571 1381 USA 866 616 5394
 IRE 1800 936 885 CAN 866 890 7038
 AUS 1300 855 684 SA 0800 990 337
 NZ 0800 44 77 69

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

Aboard the Deccan Odyssey

Essential packing

Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com

- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- Universal travel adaptor
- Insect repellent to guard against mosquitos
- Spare camera batteries and memory cards
- Consider packing some pencils, pens or modest educational supplies that can be given to village schools or street children
- Buy some Indian Rupees at the airport on arrival and keep a supply of small notes for local transactions

Domestic flights - Baggage allowance

If your holiday includes a domestic flight or you have independently booked domestic flights separate to that of your international flights, please be mindful that that free baggage allowance for **Economy class travel on flights within India is near always 15kg, with 5-7kg allowance for hand luggage**. Additional weight is charged per kilo and is payable by you directly to the airline at check-in. If travelling with more than 15kg on a flight included within your holiday, please contact us so we can confirm the exact luggage allowance for your flight and give you the current per kilo cost for additional weight.

What to expect

Please visit www.onthegotours.com/India/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs, currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

Train travel in India

Travelling by train in India is an unforgettable local experience where

you will get to meet Indian people and experience daily life as they do. The Indian Railway system is the world's second largest, with over 108,706 km of track, connecting more than 7000 stations. Every day, more than 7000 trains run, carrying some 14 million passengers, including us. Several our holidays include train journeys, some by day and others overnight. If your holiday does include train travel, we have noted within the itinerary the coach/class of travel that will be booked. Below is some further information that may assist you in planning for your journey.

AC CHAIR CAR

If travelling on a daytime journey, you will travel in an air-conditioned seated carriage (called AC chair car), similar to that of a standard city trains in most western countries. When travelling to loftier destinations where the weather is cooler, air-conditioning may not be provided.

2nd AC COACH/SLEEPER

If travelling overnight, we accommodate passengers in the 2nd class sleeper air-conditioned category (unless otherwise indicated at a higher level). 2nd class sleeper air-conditioned cabins consist of 2 upper and 2 lower bunks, plus a double-decker set of bunk beds on the opposite side of the cabin shared by you and other Indian travellers. You can sit up on your bench seat during the day and simply lie down once you are ready to go to sleep.

All cabins are mixed sex. Your cabin is not self-contained as such. 'Cabins' are separated from the carriage corridor by curtains, serving as an artificial barrier that can be drawn at night. Luggage, including hand luggage should be locked (as you would do when travelling on any overnight train anywhere in the world) and can be stored underneath the lower bunks or on the floor. The carriage is manned by an attendant who will distribute

linen, free of charge. Dependent upon the service, a variety of snacks and drinks or full dinner service can be ordered at an additional cost (except for the Shatabdi Express and Rajdhani Express where meals are included within your fare). Food aboard the Shatabdi Express train is most often exceptionally good, though on many other train services it is probably best to buy snacks, fresh fruit that can be peeled or meals prior to the start of your journey. In addition, there are WC facilities (European and 'squat-style') at each end of the carriage. Cleanliness varies, so be prepared and take your own anti-bacterial hand wipes and toilet paper.

1st AC COACH/ SLEEPER

All Indian trains offer 2nd and 3rd AC coaches, but only a handful of trains offer 1st AC coaches, which can accommodate a tiny total of 18 people. 1st AC coach/ sleepers only have berths on one side of the train hence making the cabin more spacious. The cabin may have 2 berths or 4 which seat/ sleep 2 or 4 persons. You can sit up on a bench seat during the day, which is folded into bunk beds at night. The 1st AC coach also has a door making it fully closed and lockable for 2 or 4 persons. Beds are a tad wider and mattresses more cushioned. Each cabin has a 'bell' switch, which when pressed summons the attendant of the coach.

3rd AC COACH/ SLEEPER

We do not include 3rd AC coach travel within any of our tours, though if you were considering it for personal arrangements a description can be given as follows. 3rd AC coach is very similar to 2nd AC coach with the only difference being that there is a middle berth ie not just a 2 bunk bed but a triple bunk bed, hence making it possible for 6 people to be accommodated within the space. Like the 2nd AC coach there is also another set of bunk beds on the opposite side

Aboard the Deccan Odyssey - 10 days

www.onthegotours.com - info@onthegotours.com
 UK 020 4571 1381 USA 866 616 5394
 IRE 1800 936 885 CAN 866 890 7038
 AUS 1300 855 684 SA 0800 990 337
 NZ 0800 44 77 69

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

Aboard the Deccan Odyssey

- running parallel with the length of the train. Like 2nd AC, there's no door just curtains and again you sit up on your bunk bed during the day and lie down to sleep.

Travel Operators for Tigers

Travel Operators for Tigers (TOFT), is a UK based campaign, set up to encourage sustainable wildlife tourism in tiger reserves and national parks. Funds generated through TOFT will be used to fund tiger conservation initiatives and local community development, through their two partner conservation organisations - Global Tiger Patrol and the Environmental Investigation Agency. On The Go Tours are members of TOFT and we happily pledge a USD\$20 contribution to TOFT for each of our clients that choose to travel on a wildlife tour to India with us.

Not like home... & begging

Travelling to far-flung corners of the earth often involves encountering lifestyles and conditions that are very different from what you are used to back home. As such it is important to come prepared for unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events as and when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect or demand everything to go exactly as planned, as things can and do change in foreign countries.

The people, customs, creed, food and languages of India are different from one region to the next. It is as vast as it is crowded, and as opulent as it is squalid. India is exciting, intense and diverse - an all-embracing experience, a veritable assault on the senses. Sometimes the poverty will get you down, Indian bureaucracy can test your patience and facing another traffic jam will seem almost too much to bear. Yet, it's all worthwhile! While India is far from the easiest country in the world to travel around, On The Go will try their utmost to make your holiday as seamless as possible. Our holidays

combine comfortable transportation, comprehensive sightseeing and good hotels, allowing you to concentrate on getting the most out of your stay.

India is a country of unparalleled contrasts, a destination where you'll be afforded plenty of unique encounters, and if you can travel with an open mind you will have a wonderful time here. In return, please remember to demonstrate sensitivity and respect for local customs.

Begging

With more than 350 million people in India living on less than USD\$2 per day, inevitably you will come across many people begging for money. Begging has a legitimate place in Indian society. Even poor people give to beggars or charities to earn religious merit. The Indian government, however, would like to regulate begging more stringently. Though begging is common, you are not under obligation to give money. If you choose to give money to beggars, we advise you to do this from the vehicle and not on the street. Alternatively, consider donating pencils, pens or modest educational supplies to village schools.

Shopping

India is a virtual Aladdin's Cave. At the many bazaars known as 'chowks', the cardinal rule is to bargain hard. State run craft emporiums that stock the best of what a state has to offer can give you a reasonable idea of what is acceptable in terms of price and quality. You'll find carpets of quality equal to those of Persian origin, Rajasthani pottery and metalwork, embellished slippers known as jootis, jewellery in breathtaking designs. Likewise, leatherwork, silks and saris in spectacularly colourful designs, paintings and clothing make excellent souvenirs.

In the tourism industry it's common practice for commission to be offered

in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase goods. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they have been carefully selected based upon positive feedback from On The Go travellers. You are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

Aboard the Deccan Odyssey - 10 days

www.onthegotours.com - info@onthegotours.com
 UK 020 4571 1381 USA 866 616 5394
 IRE 1800 936 885 CAN 866 890 7038
 AUS 1300 855 684 SA 0800 990 337
 NZ 0800 44 77 69

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.