



UCIRVINE

Hollywood to Bollywood Tour

Part 2: Main Tour

Delhi- Cochin-Thrissur- Mumbai

December 12 or 13 departure from the USA to arrive in Delhi on Dec 14th

Will vary with your original city of departure and flight time

December 14 – 23, 2016

(not including International flight days)

10 Days / Nights

Don't just visit India and Bollywood...

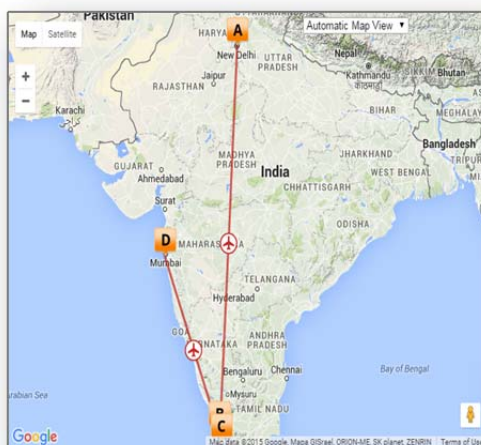


Experience It!

Visit our website www.hollywoodtobollywood.weebly.com

Private Guides – Unique Experiences – Special Features – Behind the Scenes Tours

It's all about the experience. . .



Main Tour Detailed Program

Day 1 – December 14, 2016 Arrival in Delhi

WELCOME TO INDIA!!

- On arrival in Delhi airport, you will be met by a greeter and guided to your air conditioned transportation to the hotel.
- At the hotel, you will receive the traditional welcome with Arti and Tikka (a Hindu Ritual painting a vermillion dot on your forehead and a platter of traditional lucky items).
- Use today to refresh from the long flight and to enjoy the hotel and surrounding area. The hotel lobby features an ATM machine and several shops with traditional Indian hand crafts.
- ***EVENING: We will have a Welcome Dinner in the hotel to meet fellow travelers, look ahead to our featured activities, and meet our National Guide.***

Hotel: Suryaa New Delhi - Includes Half Board (Breakfast and Dinner)

We will stay at the Suryaa Hotel for 2 nights. The hotel creates a warm ambiance for its guests, and there is a luxurious buffet restaurant featuring cuisines from all over the world.



Day 2 – December 15, 2016 Delhi (Tour) and Theater Seminar

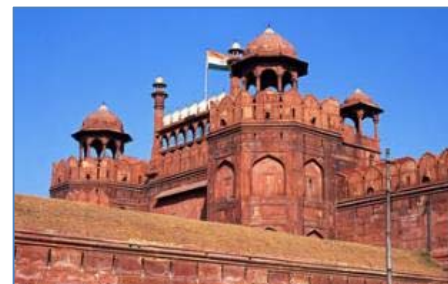
Hindu Temple, Red Fort, Jama Masjid Mosque, Rickshaw Tour & Bazaar Shopping



India's largest city, Delhi, has been one of the country's commercial and economic hubs for centuries and as a result is incredibly rich in culture and history. Made up of the ancient walled city of Old Delhi and the more modern sector – New Delhi – the city encompasses a staggering array of beautiful architecture, notable monuments and age-old temples, including three UNESCO World Heritage Sites. – Other key attractions include the 17th century Chandni Chowk marketplace – still one of the city's most popular retail centers today, particularly for jewelry and traditional Indian saris.

Itinerary

- Sarminarayan Akshardiham Hindu Temple** A contemporary temple built in 2005 constructed by over 8,000 volunteers from around the world. Build from intricately carved sand stone and marble, it features exhibitions on Hindu practice, open gardens, and a stepwell styled courtyard.
- Red Fort (exterior view)** Named for the pink-red sandstone from which it is built, this magnificent building was built in 1648 and was the residence of India's Mughal Emperors for almost two centuries. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is an exquisite and immaculately preserved example of Islamic architecture, featuring octagonal towers, turrets and opulent facades inlaid with white marble, as well as elements of Persian and Hindu design.
- Jama Masjid Mosque** The title of this mosque translates as 'world-reflecting' and it is Old Delhi's principal place of worship, the largest and most renowned mosque in India. Built in the 17th century by the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan – who also built the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort – it's elaborate structure features an expansive geometric base topped with globe-shaped minarets crafted from strips of red sandstone and white marble, and a massive courtyard that can hold up to 25 000 people.



Rickshaw Tour & Chandi Chowk Bazaar Shopping After our tour of the historic sites you will go to Delhi's main historic shopping area and will have some time to shop.



- **Evening Event – Seminar on Contemporary Theater in Delhi and the Shree Ram Theater**

We will meet the theatrical director Ravi Raj and his Drama Tech Group who will demonstrate their discipline of theatrical rehearsals, and famous playwright M.Sayeed Alam and his internationally acclaimed *Pierrot's Troupe* who will perform a short excerpt of a their work. Afterwards we will have a Q&A discussion of contemporary theater practice in Delhi, bringing together artists from all over the USA with these key Indian artists.



Pierrot's Troupe performing Sons of Babur, photo courtesy of K.Vivekshankar

Day 3 – December 16, 2016 Delhi and Gurgaon - Kingdom of Dreams Bollywood Dance Lesson, Bollywood Musical Show and Back stage Tour

Itinerary

- After breakfast we will check out of the hotel. We will spend this night near Gurgaon and the airport to prepare for our flights the next day.
- **Bollywood Dance Lesson** at a professional dance studio. Dance is vital element of everyday life in India. We will learn about various types of traditional dance featured in Indian weddings and Bollywood styles. We encourage as many as possible to actually get involved in the lesson! After this lesson you will understand the energetic Bollywood dance in a way that can only be learned by doing it. Or, for those not wishing to participate, you can observe the lesson.
- After a *lunch- on- the- go*, we will drive to **Gurgaon** and check into the new hotel (see below.) Gurgaon is an opportunity to visit the future. Known as “the Cyber City” or “Millennium City” is a vast modern office park and residential area near New Delhi. It features a towering skyline with over 1000 skyscrapers. You may recognize many of the Fortune 500 corporations represented here.

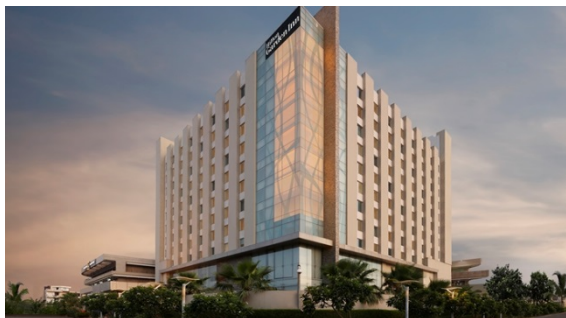
- Kingdom of Dreams**, a Bollywood themed-entertainment venue featuring a lavish stage Bollywood musical, a lively pre-show of traditional dancers and *Culture Gully*- a food and shopping themed area featuring regional Indian crafts and food. We will take an exclusive backstage tour to watch the stage crew changeover from one spectacular show to another. After a dinner of your choice in the food court, we will watch a spectacular Bollywood stage musical, with English translation available. For more information, visit their site <http://www.kingdomofdreams.in/>



Kingdom of Dreams

Hotel: Hilton Garden Inn, Gurgaon Haani Square - (Includes Breakfast)

The hotel offers complimentary WI-FI, a 24 hour business center and a 24 hour Pavilion Pantry convenience mart.



Hilton Garden Inn



Gurgaon, New Delhi *The Cyber City*

Day 4 – December 17, 2016 Flight to Cochin(Kochi)

Cochin City Sightseeing and Greenix Theatre

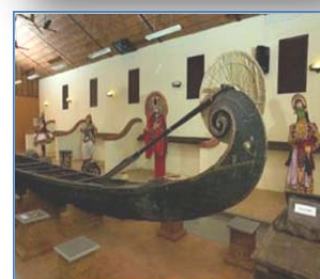
Today we will travel back in time, from the futuristic Gurgaon to Cochin- one of the oldest port cities in the world. King Solomon sent ships to this port to trade for teak wood and spices, possibly establishing the old Jewish quarter that still stands today. It is believed to be the oldest European settlement in India; famed Portuguese explorer Vasco Da Gama arrived in 1502. He returned again in 1524 as the Portuguese Viceroy of the Indies. He died in Cochin and was buried in St. Francis church, the first

European church in India. This city represents the beginnings of European trade relations that would lead to the legacy of colonial struggles. There was a succession of colonial governments, each capturing the port from each other and leaving their mark on Indian culture- Portuguese, Dutch and English. The climate in southern- most India is completely different from the northern cities, and you will immediately see and feel the balmy tropical climate! The state of Kerala is also home to one of the foremost training schools for Kathakali dance, one of the major forms of classical Indian dance known for its extremely elaborate traditional costume and make up. Many observers notice its similarity to Japanese Noh, with codified costumes, gestures and movement.



Itinerary

- We will check out of the hotel and take an early flight to Cochin (Kochi.) We will check into a new hotel (see below.)
- **St Francis Basilica** Completed in 1516, this stone church originally housed Franciscan friars. During 1663 the Protestant Dutch captured Kochi, demolishing all churches but this one, using it as a church of their own. In 1795 the British captured Kochi from the Dutch, again allowing this church to remain as an Anglican house of worship.
- **Mattandeherry Palace** Originally built by the Portuguese as a gift to the King of Cochin ca 1555, it was captured and expanded by the Dutch. It is particularly known as an example of traditional Kerala architecture surrounding a courtyard. It is also the home to a famous set of murals depicting stories of the Hindu gods.
- The historic **Jewish Ghetto**. Thought to have roots back to the time of King Solomon, this official Jewish Quarter was mentioned in travel literature as early as the 12 century. This quarter now features a temple and many shops with handicrafts and clothing.
- **Evening Event: The Greenix Theater Greenix Village** is a cultural art centre promoting Kerala's varied performance art forms under a single roof. There is an adjoining museum depicting the traditional hand and facial gestures for these dances and various character costumes on display We will see a short show featuring:



- ✚ Traditional welcome dance of Kerala.
- ✚ Mohiniyattom, the classical dance of Kerala
- ✚ Bharatanatyam, the south Indian classical dance
- ✚ Martial arts of Kerala, Kalaripayattu
- ✚ Demo and episode of Kathakali
- ✚ Theyyam, a temple ritual

Hotel: Crowne Plaza Kochi - (Includes Half Board, Dinner & Breakfast)



Day 5 – December 18, 2016 Cochin- Anakotta-Trissur (Driving 52 miles approx. 2 hrs) Anakotta Elephant Fort, Thrissur Fabric and Fashion Stores

After breakfast at the hotel, we will drive to **Anakotta** and **Trissur**, a cultural hub city famous for its temples, universities, festivals, textiles and jewelry. Some of the largest silk and saree manufacturers are headquartered in Thrissur. We will return to the Cochin Hilton for dinner.

Itinerary

- Enroute to Trissur we will visit **Anakotta** (“elephant fort”) the elephant stables for the Guruvayoor Hindu Temple. This facility trains elephants and their keeper/riders (*mahouts*) to participate in the many festivals featured throughout the year. Elephants are a sacred part of Thrissur culture. There are now over 60 tusked bull elephants kept in this area.
- **Silk Stores of Trissur.** Famous for its silk and cotton mills, fashion showrooms and textiles stores, Indian families travel here from all over the country to properly outfit a daughter’s wedding.



Photo courtesy of Minerva/ Indulgy






Day 6 – December 19, 2016 Cochin

Cochin Folklore Museum and David Hall, Katakali Costume & Make Up

We will have breakfast in the hotel, and drive to Fort Cochi. This will be our last day in Cochin, and we've created a slower paced day to catch your breath.

Itinerary

- After breakfast, you will visit the **Kerala Folklore Museum**. The three storied building was created from old temples and estate houses collected by the owner, an antiques dealer. It is an excellent example of the many cultures that blend to make Kerala culture or *Malabar* styles, as the west coast of India was known to Arab and Persian traders. The first floor contains examples of statuary and folk art, the second floor displays performance and traditional costumes.
 
- **David Hall**, a historic Dutch bungalow restored as a cultural center. We will eat lunch here, then have a private session with several Katakali performers as they apply the elaborate make up and costumes for a performance. The performers will explain the traditions and how costumes are made and worn. We will have a private performance. Dressing in the elaborate costumes and make up can take well over an hour.
 
- **And/OR Alternate Activity-** on your own in Fort Kochi- shopping, sight seeing, walking along the beach in December. Ask a local vendor to cut open a coconut so you can drink the milk and eat the fresh meat ! The fort is small and much of the area is walkable. For a quick peek at the things to see, view this YouTube video "*A Weekend Trip to Fort Cochin*" For shopping hints you may want to consult **Waderlust Travel Magazine's** blog <http://www.wanderlust.co.uk/magazine/blogs/insider-secrets/a-shoppers-guide-to-fort-kochi>

- Dinner at the hotel, or you may make your own arrangements.

NOTE: We will review best practices for smaller group activities during our Welcome Dinner on the first night. It is NOT advisable that you travel on your own. Our guides will be happy to advise for specific arrangements. While India is a modern nation, there is less regulation governing tourist-related industries and little recourse for you should anything occur.

Day 7 – December 20, 2016 Cochin- Mumbai

Arrive in Mumbai for a partial day of sight seeing



The Queen's Necklace, Marine Drive in Mumbai

The thriving metropolis of Mumbai is a go-to destination for travellers curious to experience a modern Indian city. Located on the Arabian Sea, this urban seaside peninsula is a melting pot of old and new India. Towering office blocks and shiny apartment buildings shoulder crumbling grand dames of architecture. Men play cricket in the leafy central parks, taxis navigate the jam packed streets and families stroll along the seaside promenades of Mumbai. Examples of every time period and class of people exist side by side, symbolizing the inter connectedness of all things in Indian thought. Some of the architectural remnants of old Bombay include exciting examples of fusion British Raj architecture, one of the largest collections of Art Deco buildings in the world, one of the most expensive private residences in the world--- all abutting Asia's largest slum. **It is also the movie making capital of India – it is Bollywood!**

Itinerary

- After breakfast in our Cochin hotel, we will check out and drive to the airport for our flight to Mumbai. We will check into our new hotel (see below.)
- City sight seeing tour by bus including the major architectural highlights. (Subject to change due to airline schedules. We will have time the next day to catch up as needed.)
- **Marine Drive** – a long boulevard on the edge of Mumbai Harbor called the “Queen’s Necklace” because at night the lights of the C-shaped drive resemble a strand of pearls. Many buildings built by wealthy residents in the 1920s and 1930s retain the original Art Deco style, nestled among sky scrapers and hotels. Mumbai residents walk along the harbor amid palm trees, culminating at the north end Chowatty Beach.
- **Mani Bhavan**—The apartment used by Gandhi as his headquarters when ever he visited Mumbai, it is now a museum to his life and political activities.



An Art Deco Building on Marine Drive



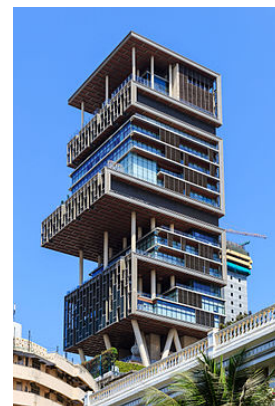
The Obamas visit Gandhi's room Official White House photo by Pete Souza

- **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum** (Formerly Prince of Wales Museum)



The CSMVS is one of the premiere art museums in India. It houses a permanent gallery dedicated to **Indian Textiles** with exhibits explaining various textile styles and garments sourced from family ceremonial heirlooms. Located inside a green oasis, the Victoria Garden, the building itself is also an excellent example of the **Indo-Saracenic Gothic Revival** architectural style. Additional artifacts include rare examples from the **Indus Valley Civilization**: one of the three “Ancient East” civilizations that included Mesopotamia and Pharonic Egypt. More widespread than the cultures in the Mediterranean, it originated along the Indus River, just as its sister cultures rose from the Tigris/Euphrates and the Nile.

- **Antilla**- the second most expensive private residential property in the world (next to Buckingham Palace in London, which is technically owned by the Crown, not an individual.) It is owned by Mukesh Ambani, the Chairman of a large conglomerate holding company, Reliance Industries. A staff of 600 people maintain this residence, valued at 1 billion US dollars between the value of the land and the structure. Designed by Chicago architects Perkins and Will, it has 27 floors and stands as a symbol of what many consider the “new” maharajhs of India. Not open to tours, we will have the opportunity to view this building from the street.



- **Chhatrapati Shivaji (formerly Victoria) Terminus** is a UNESCO World Heritage



Site that serves as the headquarters of the Central Railways. Many westerners may know this building more for an interior railyard chase scene and the hit song (Jai Ho) end song of *Slumdog Millionaire* took place. (revisit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iYYn0eybkY>)

The structure is considered the finest example of Victorian Gothic style in India; merging industrial revolution technology with aesthetics from Indian palaces, Italianate and British sources. The CST became the symbol of Bombay with a unique fusion of “British architects and Indian craftsman forging a new style unique to Bombay.” (UNESCO) For a better look at some of these features please visit the UNESCO photo gallery <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/945/gallery/>

- **Dhobi Ghat** – a large open air laundry where laundry workers (dhobis) work in open tubs. Many Mumbai residents had their laundry done by neighborhood dhobis, and some still do even as domestic washers and dryers become more commonplace. The large dhobi ghat such as this one still caters to large volume clients such as hotels.



Dhobi Ghat Photo by M M of Switzerland

- **Dinner** in the hotel, or you may make your own arrangements

Hotel: Hotel Trident Nariman Point - (Includes Half Board, Dinner & Breakfast)

The Trident Nariman Point Hotel offers breathtaking view of Marine Drive and the entire city. Soaring 35 stories tall, it offers panoramic views of the Marine Drive/ the Queen's necklace. Catering to a sophisticated international clientele, the restaurant offers fresh cuisines for all preferences.



Day 8 – December 21, 2016 Mumbai Bollywood Studio Tour

Itinerary

After breakfast we will visit two Bollywood studios on a private tour. For more information, visit SJ Studios <http://sjstudios.co.in/production/> The day's activities will include-

- A documentary film on the history of film in India, or the Bollywood industry
- Bollywood Dance demonstration
- Visit a live shooting sets
- Peek at the behind-the-scenes movie making
- VFX, Chroma effect, cinematography, etc.
- Visit stock sets such as a police station, Raj Mahal, Central Jail, Hospital, Bank, Office etc.
- Visit to 2nd studio in the warehouse district with current TV soap operas shooting (as available)
- In the afternoon we will catch up on sight seeing from the day before, as needed.
- **Dinner** in the hotel or you may make your own arrangements



Day 9 – December 22, 2016 Mumbai - Elephanta Caves Island Tour

We will take a half day island tour by non- air conditioned ferry boat shared with other tourist passengers. We will begin at the harbor to see a few sights then board our ferries. Two landmark buildings mark the harbor, the **Gateway of India** and the **Taj Mahal Palace Hotel**.

WARNING- there are limited toilet facilities on the ferry, and limited shade available on the island. The ferry ride is about 60 minutes plus waiting time and walking to a facility on the island. Bring a hat, some sun screen and plan accordingly.

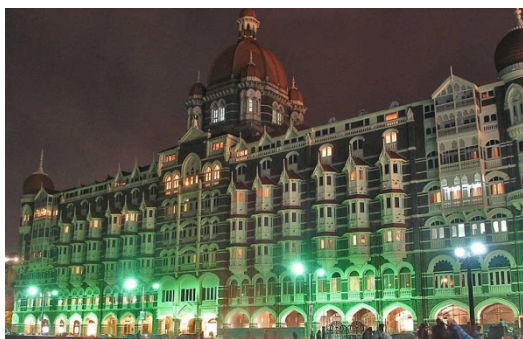
Itinerary

- The Gateway of India** - The Gateway is a monument located at the edge of Mumbai harbor, on the Arabian Sea. The land was originally a fishing community, later replaced by a British port especially for colonial governors, officials and other important people to arrive in old Bombay. The arch was built to commemorate the royal visit to India of King George V and Queen Mary in 1911. It is an excellent example of **Indo-Saracenic Revival architectural style** (also called **Hindu-Gothic or Neo-Mughal**.) It drew upon native elements (Indian, Islamic or Mughal) and combined them with British Gothic Revival to create a unique colonial style throughout India.



The Gateway of India Photo courtesy of Afar.com

- The Taj Mahal Palace Hotel** – made infamous by a tragic 2008 terrorist attack, this building was commissioned in 1903 by the “Father of Indian Industry” Jamsetji Tata who was refused entrance to a fine hotel with a whites only policy. He hired Indian architects who combined many influences: a Florentine central dome, British Gothic and Romanesque stones and arches, Mughal turban shaped turrets and domes. The central dome served as a marker for ships arriving by sea and it is still used as a navigation point. The interior boasts a cantilevered “floating” stair case up to the central dome. The hotel caters to government officials and wealthy jet- setters with its luxury services and prices. For an interior view visit YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmPkj-qUdOs>



The Taj Mahal Hotel photo by PlaneMad

- Elephanta Caves-Gharapuri Island or Elephanta Island**
 Cave temples are found all over India, and this island houses one of the oldest Hindu temples carved out of cave walls. The island was once the capital of a powerful ancient kingdom and still has about 1200 inhabitants in three villages. It is not permitted for tourists to stay overnight.

The carvings have been dated between the 5th to 8th centuries, although coins from the 4th century have recently been found. It is still a mystery who built the caves, but the main cave was an active Hindu temple until 1534 until the Portuguese arrived. The site is now a UNESCO world heritage site preserving rare examples of ancient Hindu art.



Ferry to Elephanta Island



The caves are accessed by hiking a long stone stair case up the side of a hill. The stair case is now shade covered and lined with souvenir and food vendors. Chair- carriers will gladly carry those unwilling or unable to make the walk.

The walk ways and hills are also home to mischievous monkeys that will steal your food if you aren't careful---they are particularly interested in soda!



- In the afternoon, we will be on our own to shop or view sites we have not had time to cover as a group. We will return to the Trident Hotel for our last night in India!
- **Evening Event- *We will toast our life- changing experiences with a farewell dinner!***

Day 10 – December 23, 2016 Mumbai – Departure, Return to the USA

Today we will be transferred to the Mumbai airport for our return flights back to the United States with a lifetime of memories!

END OF MAIN TOUR

Please visit [www. HollywoodtoBollywood.weebly.com](http://www.HollywoodtoBollywood.weebly.com) for current pricing