

Special ESCORTED GROUP departure

# DECCAN ODYSSEY



A Train Journey where you travel like Indian Royalty

## INCLUSIONS

International economy class airfares ex Australia with Singapore Airlines  
Domestic airfares & Taxes  
Accommodation in 5 star hotels  
Breakfasts, Lunches and Dinners as per itinerary  
All transfers and tour transportation in deluxe air conditioned coaches  
English speaking local guides  
Fully Escorted from Australia (min. 15 passengers)

**Package Tour does NOT include:-**  
Taxes, Govt. fees and levies approx \$520 p.p.  
Passport & Visa application fee \$95 p.p.  
Travel Insurance (highly recommended)

## OPTIONAL EXTENSION

5 DAY GOLDEN TRIANGLE INVOLVING:

- Jaipur  
Amber Fort  
Fatehpur Sikri
- Agra  
Taj Mahal
- Delhi  
New Delhi  
Old Delhi

\$790 per person / twin share  
Plus Domestic Airfare & Taxes ? ? ?

\$3,950 per person twin share ( plus \$520 TAXES as of Sept. 2008 )

Departs 1st SEPTEMBER 2009 for 12 Days

BOOK EARLY as group sizes are limited to 16 - 24 passengers



Reservations & Enquiries  
Phone (08) 8371 5540  
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## THE DECCAN ODYSSEY

The Royal Indian train that has been benchmarked against the best luxury trains in the world like the Blue Train of South Africa, The Orient Express of Europe and the Eastern and Oriental of South East Asia. The royal journey takes you on a week-long trip to some of the best places in Maharashtra, namely Mumbai, Ganapatipule, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Tarkarli, Sawantwadi, Goa, Kolhapur, Pune, Aurangabad, Ellora, Ajanta and Nashik. So come aboard and get ready to travel to the rich past of the state.

The train has 21 coaches, out of which 13 are passenger cars accommodating 8 people per coach (4 couples per coach), 1 Conference Car, 2 Dinning Cars, 2 Generator Cars with Luggage Store, 1 Staff, spare Car, 1 Spa Car, 1 Bar Car.

The train has on-board facilities like T.V., Cable connection with central audio disc player, cell phones, Channel Music, Foreign exchange facilities, etc. The present capacity of the train is 80 passengers.

The itinerary of the tour – at a glance :

**1st Day** - Mumbai

**2nd Day** - Ratnagiri-Ganapatipule-Jaigad

**3rd Day** - Sindhudurg-Tarkarli-Sawantwadi

**4th Day** - Goa

**5th Day** - Kolhapur- New Palace, Museum, Bhavani Mandap Mahalaxmi Temple - Shalini Palace. Pune - Raja Kelkar Museum.

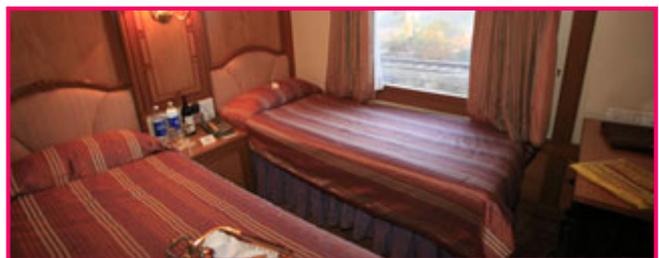
**6th Day** - Aurangabad-Daulatabad-Ellora Caves-Bibi-ka-Maqbara

**7th Day** - Jalgaon Ajanta Caves- Nasik- Panchawati Ghat

**8th Day** - Mumbai.



The Deccan Odyssey's sheer luxury is a sight to behold. Everything in the train reflects the ways of Indian royalty. Each coach is named after some of the best places and forts of Maharashtra. And with plush interiors, awesome cuisine and great sites to see, this journey sure etches some golden memories in the traveler's mind.



The two restaurant cars, serve a range of Indian, Continental, Maharashtrian, Goa and Chinese cuisines. Menus are changed seasonally.

## YOUR ITINERARY

This itinerary is designed around a full week exploring the State of Maharashtra by deluxe train ..... Then should you wish, extend for six days to explore the Golden Triangle encompassing Jaipur—the Pink City, Agra—the Taj Mahal and Delhi—old and new.

All accommodation is of Deluxe standard.

### DAY 1 Tuesday

Depart Adelaide on Singapore Airlines at 11:55 am for your direct flight to Singapore arriving at 5:40pm. Your connecting flight departs Singapore at 8:05 pm for Mumbai arriving at 11:00 pm. You will be greeted upon arrival and transferred to your deluxe hotel.

**Accommodation: Hilton Towers Hotel, Mumbai**

### DAY 2 Wednesday

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning is a leisure to recuperate from your long journey yesterday. Upon checkout around mid-day we will embark on a brief half day tour of Mumbai enroute to the railway station.

Departure in the evening from Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Mumbai.

**Accommodation: Deccan Odyssey for the next 7 nights.**

### DAY 3 Thursday

Morning - Alight at Ratnagiri Railway Station then depart by airconditioned coach for Ratnagiri Town excursion. View of Thibaw Palace where Thibaw, the last King of Burma was incarcerated by the British. The next stop is Bhatye, a view point to watch the scenic beauty of the Bhatye coast.

Pass through the towns, local markets and brief visit to the memorial of India's greatest freedom fighter Lokmanya Tilak.

Proceed to Ganapatipule Beach.

Ratnagiri is a land of the Alphonso mango. On the way you will see Mango, Cashew Nut, Mud Apple and Coconut plantation made on black solid rock. Resume journey through tiny villages to Ganapatipule Beach resort.

Ganapatipule a beach bathed in golden sunshine. Laze around the golden sands or explore many trails that lead from the beach.

Lunch & free time at Ganapatipule beach resort.

An optional Tuk-Tuk ride in and around Malgund a small typical coastal village and the native place of the famous poet, Keshav Sut. Visit the memorial of the poet, see traditional houses, 150 year old primary school and Lord Ganesha Temple.

Late in the afternoon proceed to Jaigad Jetty for a backwater cruise around the 17th century historical Fort Jaigad and Konkan villages alongside of the fort.

Board the coach for Ratnagiri railway station to board the train.

Dinner onboard.

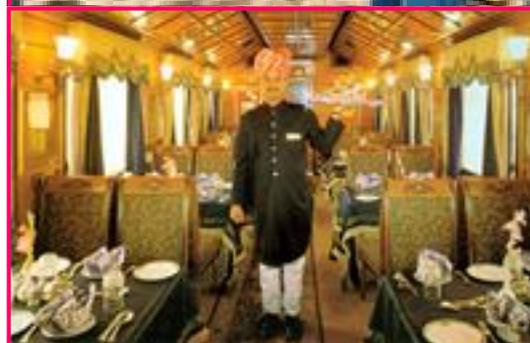
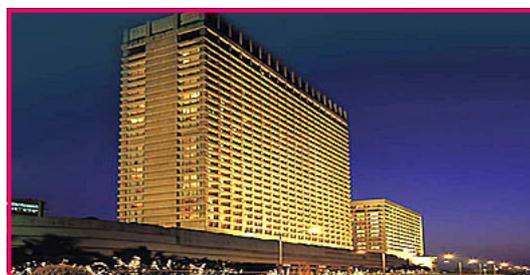
### DAY ? Friday

Morning - Alight at the Sindhudurg Nagari Railway station then depart by airconditioned coach to Malvan Jetty to witness Sindhudurg the Ocean Fort & one time naval base of Maratha empire. From the jetty proceed to Tarkarli beach resort.

Tarkarli a virgin beach at the confluence to river Karli and Arabian Sea.

Lunch & free time at Tarkarli beach resort.

Next, romantic Back Water Cruise through the Tarkarli creek up to Walaval Jetty. Visit an ancient village temple of Laxmi Narayana, followed by visit to Sawantwadi town by coach to witness fabulous lacquer handicrafts, paintings and furniture at the "Shilpagrama" the art & craft centre in the town. Watch a cultural program performed by local artists. Late in the evening board the train at Sawantwadi railway station.



### DAY ? Saturday

Morning arrival at Karmali - Goa, the most frequented tourist spots in India.

Board the coach to reach Old Goa to witness the ruins of St. Augustine Church once largest cathedral in Goa. Basilica of Bom Jesus, this is a 16th Century Church, the mortal remains of St. Francis Xavier is enshrined here. See Cathedral and the Church of St. Francis of Assisi that began as a mosque but now is an archaeological museum for Goan antiques. Visit Fontanhas, the Latin quarters at Panjim. Departure to Hotel. Lunch & Free time on the beach. Evening board the train from Madgaon railway station.



### DAY ? Sunday

Morning - Arrival at Kolhapur City, known as Karveer or Dakshin Kashi of Maharashtra. Situated on the banks of river Panchaganga.

Board the coach to visit New Palace, a royal palace partly converted into a museum, Bhawani Mandap (The Town Hall) witness traditional Martial Art locally known as "Mardani Khel", an exquisitely carved Mahalaxmi Temple a temple of goddess Ambabai visited by millions of pilgrims, Shalini Palace built of intricately carved black stone & Italian Marble stands on the west side of lake Rankala, watch a cultural program and visit to handicraft stalls for memorabilia.

At noon board the train at Kolhapur station to depart for Pune. Lunch onboard. Leisure time till evening.

Evening arrive at Pune. Board the coach to visit Raja Dinkar Kelkar Museum, houses variety of artifacts of the 17th, 18th & 19th Centuries. Return and board the train from Pune railway station.

### DAY ? Monday

Morning Arrival at Daulatabad station. Proceed by road to visit; Majestic fort Daulatabad. Next stop is Ellora caves, a World Heritage site, having 34 cave temples dedicated to three different religion- Hinduism, Buddhism & Jainism.

Lunch & free time.

After lunch move on to see; Bibi-ka-Maqbara, a replica of Taj Mahal is a grand piece of Moghul architecture.

Optional: Back to train, or, Free time for shopping Paithani, Himroo, Bidriwork from showrooms for a memorabilia.

Evening board the train from Aurangabad railway station.

### DAY ? Tuesday

Morning - Arrival at Jalgaon railway station. Board the coach to reach Ajanta Caves. Renowned Buddhist caves of Ajanta are World Heritage Site. Witness some of the finest paintings and sculptures of the second century AD. 'Bodhisattva Padmapani', 'Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara', The Birth of the Buddha' & 'Thousand Buddha's are a few amongst the many fine murals & sculptures.

At noon board train at Jalgaon railway station. Proceed to Nashik. Lunch on-board. Leisure Time onboard till evening.

Alight at Nashik Road railway station to board the coach for departure to Panchawati Ghat a holy place known for Kumbh Mela. Next, visit to Kala Ram Temple built in 1794.

Evening board the train at Nashik railway station.

### DAY ? Wednesday

Morning - Arrival at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Mumbai.. Deccan Odyssey journey ends.

Transfer to the International Airport for your Singapore Airlines flight that departs at 11:45 am for Singapore arriving at 7:40 pm.

You have a good three hours in transit, so, take the opportunity to freshen-up with a shower at the great facilities offered at Changi Airport, Singapore.

Your connecting overnight flight home departs at 11:45 pm arriving into Adelaide at 7:50 am.

**OR .... Take the opportunity to EXTEND your tour to the Golden Triangle, details on the following page.**

## **GOLDEN TRIANGLE EXTENSION**

### **Day 01: Bombay to Jaipur**

Transfer to the airport to board flight to Jaipur. Arrive Jaipur & transfer to hotel. Overnight Jaipur.

**Accommodation: Le Meridien, Jaipur**

### **Day 02: Jaipur**

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning visit the Amber Fort the ancient capital of the State. Enter the Fort by Elephant. Visit the Sheesh Mahal or the Hall of Victory glittering with mirrors. The capital of Rajasthan was given a colour coat of pink a century ago in honour of a visiting Prince and ever since, it has retained this colour. Built by Maharaja Jai Singh, the notable astronomer, this city is 260 yrs old.

Visit Maharaja's City Palace, the Observatory and Ram Niwas Gardens. Drive past Hawa Mahal and through the pink rose residential areas.

**Accommodation: Le Meridien, Jaipur**

### **Day 03: Jaipur to Agra via Fatehpur Sikri**

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning drive to Agra visiting Fatehpur Sikri en-route. Fatehpur Sikri is 40 kms from Agra and built by Emperor Akbar in 1569 and abandoned after 15 yrs due to scarcity of water.

See the graceful buildings including the Jama Masjid, Tomb of Salim Chisti, Panch Mahal and other Palaces.

Arrive Agra & transfer to hotel.

**Accommodation: Jaypee Palace, Agra**

### **Day 04: Agra**

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning city tour when we visit the world famous Taj Mahal built by the Moghul Emperor Shahjehan in 1630 for his Queen Mumtaz Mahal to enshrine her mortal remains.

Later visit the Agra Fort, the Halls of Public and Private Audience. Also visit the Tomb of Itmad-ud-Daullah built by Empress Noorjehan in memory of her father.

**Accommodation: Jaypee Palace, Agra**

### **Day 05: Agra to Delhi**

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning drive to Delhi. Arrive Delhi & transfer to hotel. Remainder of the day at your leisure, until Dinner in an Indian Restaurant serving Rajasthani Cuisine.

**Accommodation: Crown Plaza, Delhi**

### **Day 06: Delhi**

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning full day city tour of Delhi

#### **New Delhi**

Visit Outub Minar built by Outub-ud-Din Aibek in 1199, Humayun's Tomb, India Gate (War Memorial Arch), Lakshminarayan Temple - a modern Hindu Temple. Also drive past President's House, Parliament House, Government Secretariat Buildings and Connaught Place shopping centre.

#### **Old Delhi**

Visit Raj Ghat - the cremation sites of Mahatma Gandhi, Jama Masjid and drive past Red Fort & Chandni chowk.

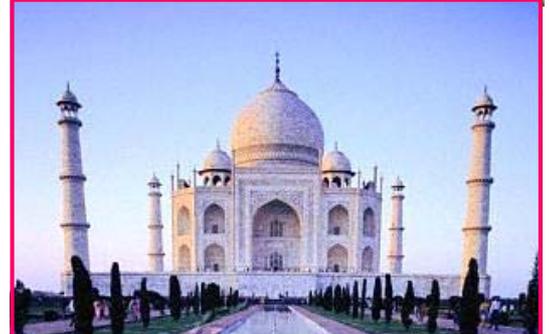
**Accommodation: Crown Plaza, Delhi**

### **Day 07: Departure**

Very early departure: Transfer to airport for your Singapore Airlines flight departing at 8:00 am arriving into Singapore at 4:05 pm.

You have a good seven hours in transit, so, take the opportunity to freshen-up with a shower at the great facilities offered at Changi Airport, Singapore, or, take a brief half day tour of Singapore.

Your connecting overnight flight home departs at 11:45 pm arriving into



## Facilities On Board the DECCAN ODYSSEY

### Individual Facilities

#### Accommodation

13 fully air-conditioned deluxe saloons, each a combination of 4 twin bedded chambers with channel music, intercom, attached toilets, running hot and cold water, shower, wall to wall carpeting and other amenities.

#### For Physically Challenged Persons

Special assistance is available in the form of wheel chairs, creches and a special attendant for manual assistance.

#### Luggage Collection

Your luggage is picked up and taken to your respective Saloon without your worrying about it.

#### Arrival Kit

Each guest is provided with an arrival kit consisting of stationery items, brochures, cards, etc. Anything additional can be asked for, from the attendant, always available at your service

#### Attendant

An attendant is always available at your service, to take care of all your travel needs.

#### Meals

An exotic array of dishes to choose from various cuisines, which are available on the Deccan Odyssey.

#### Packaged Water

We make sure, the greatest gift of nature bestowed on us i.e. water is made available to you in its purest form. Packaged water is made available to you all through the journey.

#### News Papers / Magazines

The leading dailies and newspapers and a collection of magazines is made available for your reading pleasure.

#### Security

Adequate safety arrangements are made for you as well as your personal belongings in the train itself.

#### Toiletries

All essential toiletries like soaps, shampoos, moisturizers etc. are provided in the train.

#### Wine / Beer

A complimentary bottle of wine courtesy the Deccan Odyssey in all the rooms.

#### Other Facilities

Wide collection of classic & non-classics films and music on channel.

### Common Facilities

#### Bar

A well stocked bar serves wine, liquor and spirits of Indian and International Brands, to keep you in 'high spirits'

#### Group Photograph

To cherish these special moments of glory and to remind you of these items when you walk down memory lane a few years from now, we take a group photograph, which is given to you as a souvenir.

#### Lounge

A lounge for relaxing, interacting, making friends getting together.

#### Mail Box

A mailbox is provided on board, which discharges your mail with utmost care and efficiency.

#### Medical Aid

Your health obviously tops the chart of our priority list. First aid is available on the train, whereas a doctor can be arranged on call at the next approaching station.

#### Restaurant

Two lavish and beautifully done restaurants: Serve mouth watering Indian cuisines that would definitely make way to your heart through your stomach.

#### Shopping

Certain handicrafts and other special items of Maharashtra origin can be bought while you visit the places covered by the Deccan Odyssey.

#### Smoking

The Deccan Odyssey has exclusive non-smoking suite cars and separate bar car Mumbai Hi for the guests who love to smoke.

#### Conference

Conference car with all amenities and connectivity designed to match the best if you wish to have conference on board.

#### Health

The Body Massage, facials, with Ayurvedic Oils and Steam bath is available to rejuvenate you. A Gymnasium is also there for your routine workouts.

#### Business Centre

Well equipped with computers, secretarial services, photocopying, telecommunication, internet, equipment rental is available onboard.



**DISCLAIMER:** Due to local conditions, customs, religious festivals and the like, there may be occasions where daily itineraries are modified. However every effort will be made to include every item on your itinerary, albeit in a different order. Where a venue becomes unavailable at the time of the final booking, a venue of equal or better will be used as a substitute. All venues are available at the time of printing.

## Booking Terms and Conditions

### ITINERARY AND COSTS

- Prices are based on the exchange rate at the time of printing and are subject to alteration accordingly. They are quoted in Australian Dollars and are GST free for international travel, and GST inclusive for domestic travel and services.
- Details of particular hotels described in the itinerary may change due to quality control by the Tour Operator. Every endeavour will be made to keep details up to date. A hotel of similar or superior standard will be substituted.
- Flight schedules are correct at the time of printing. Any changes are outside of the control of Specialised Tours. Should the itinerary and tour costs change as a result of schedule changes, the passenger will bear the difference.
- Holiday itinerary is based on a minimum of 15 travellers
- In the event that change(s) cause the tour to be substantially different than the initial price quoted, the passenger has the right to withdraw from the tour. Some airline and/or hotel deposits may be forfeited.

### MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS and TRAVEL INSURANCE

- It is your personal responsibility to ensure you are adequately protected for travel outside of Australia. You can obtain information from your family doctor or consult the Traveller's Medical and Vaccination Centre in your capital city by phoning 1300 658 844.
- Travel Insurance is highly recommended. Specialised Tours will require proof of a policy or a signed Declaration from any traveller declining Travel Insurance.

### CANCELLATION CLAUSE

- Bookings cancelled at any time after confirmation will automatically incur a loss of deposit.
- In addition to the loss of deposit, other charges may be enforced by the airline, hotel or tour operator up to 100% of the tour cost, particularly within 45 days of departure.
- Any group tour may be cancelled if insufficient numbers are booked or events outside of our control cause cancellation. Optional dates will be offered in such cases.
- Upon paying any money for deposits, part or full amounts, it is desirable to purchase your Travel Insurance to guard against most forms of cancellation.

### ROOM TYPES and BEDDING

- Prices for this tour are based on existing bedding at the hotels selected. Additional bedding will need to be specifically requested and is subject to availability.
- A Single Supplement is required to be paid if sole occupancy of a room is required.
- Single, interconnecting, twin as against double, smoking or non-smoking rooms need to be clearly referred to on the booking form, and are based upon availability.

### PASSPORT VALIDITY and VISA REQUIREMENTS

- Passports will require at least six months validity from the date of entry into a foreign country.
- Depending upon your Nationality, a Visa may be required prior to departing Australia. (holders of Australian passports do not require visa's for entry to Malaysia)

### BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE and SECURITY CONTROL

- Economy Class travellers are allowed 20kgs per person. Business Class passengers are permitted 30 Kgs. No one bag may exceed 35 Kgs.
- Carry-on luggage is restricted to 5 Kgs, and no larger in size than 48cm X 34 cm X 23 cm.
- No sharp objects such as a nail file, scissors, Swiss Army knife, etc is permitted in the aircraft cabin. Please ensure such items are packed into your check-in luggage. New rules apply for liquids, aerosols and gels.
- Any charges for excess luggage will be at the passenger's expense and payable upon check-in.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

- Specialised Tours does not accept any responsibility for any act or omission causing loss or injury to persons or property whether by negligence or otherwise on the part of the principals (the airline, hotel, tour operator, coach company or service provider) providing any facilities or services described in the tour package.
- Specialised Tours is not liable in contract or in tort for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or inconvenience caused directly or indirectly by force majeure or other events which are beyond the control of Specialised Tours, or which are preventable, including without limitation, delays, changes of aircraft services, alterations to any other travel service, illness, injuries, strikes, civil disturbances, quarantines, floods or other disturbances of whatsoever nature interfering with, altering, or adding to the cost of the services requested or booked.
- Specialised Tours is not liable for any personal dissatisfaction with properties or sites. Specialised Tours will do its best to ensure all arrangements are as agreed and only accepts liability if loss is sustained as a result of its negligence or that of its employees.
- Consumer Claims should be filed within 30 days of return to Australia in writing, be it for an Insurance claim, or directed to the Travel Compensation Fund or Specialised Travel for action.
- Specialised Tours is a division of Specialised Travel, Licensed Travel Agent TTA155853.

### PAYMENTS

- \$500 deposit PER PERSON is due on booking
- Balance is due 6 weeks prior to departure