

Architectural Marvels Of India

Day 01	Arrive Mumbai	By: International Flight
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Arrive at Mumbai's International Airport. Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, a ACR Representative will meet you as you exit the arrivals terminal building and transfer you to your hotel.

Mumbai: Rudyard Kipling extolled Mumbai as the 'Mother of cities'. The history of Mumbai or Mumbai as it is now known, is the story of an incredible transformation from its foundation to its present day. The British built it expressly for trade and over the years it changed hands from the fishing village of the Kolis, through the Portuguese conquest, to Catharine of Aragon who took the seven islands of Mumbai as her dowry to Charles II of England. Mumbai was and still is the Gateway to India, commemorated by a monument of that name built to mark the visit of King George and his consort, Mary.

Meal – None

Day 02 Mumbai

The Elephanta Island is known as Gharapuri (fortress city). The 7th century cave temple complex, which has been carved out of rock under two small holes, is dedicated to Lord Shiva and was a flourishing place of pilgrimage till few centuries ago. It has a magnificent 18 feet high, three-headed bust of Shiva- the Maheshmurti. Massive pillars support the main cave, which is known as Elephanta,, each resign on a square base with fluted shafts. Inside is the main hall housing sculptures of various gods in the Hindu mythology.

Later enjoy a half day sightseeing tour of Mumbai visiting this spectacular city of contrasts with its skyscraper skyline and traditional outdoor laundries, the Dhobi Ghats. Originally a group of islands inhabited by fisher folk, Bombay today is India's busiest port and most affluent and industrialized city. You will visit the Prince of Wales Museum (Closed on Monday), a legacy of the British Empire, which houses a fine collection of sculpture and painting. You will also visit Mani Bhawan, a small museum where wax miniatures depict scenes from Mahatma Gandhi's life and India's freedom struggle. Also visit Haji Ali Mosque, Mahalaxmi Temple, Marine Drive, Victoria Terminus, Crawford Market, Javeri Bazaar and Gate Way Of India.

Day 03 Mumbai – Goa By: Flight

After breakfast at the hotel, a ACR representative will transfer you to the airport to connect with your flight to Goa:

Flight Number	AI-661
Departs Mumbai	1500 Hrs
Arrives Goa	1605 Hrs

On arrival, transfer to your hotel.

Goa: Variouslly known as "Pearl of the Orient" and a "Tourist Paradise", the state of Goa is located on the western coast of India in the coastal belt known as Konkan. The magnificent scenic beauty and the architectural splendours of its temples, churches and old houses have made Goa a firm favourite with travellers around the world. But then, Goa is much more than just beaches and sea. It has a soul which goes deep into unique history, rich culture and some of the prettiest natural scenery that India has to offer.

Meal – Breakfast

Day 04	Goa
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After breakfast, you will be introduced to with a tour of Old Goa: Old Goa - located 99 km east of Panjim and is famous for its churches and cathedrals. Basilica of Bom Jesus - The 1605 church of Bom Jesus, "Good" or "Menino Jesus", is known principally for the tomb of St Francis Xavier. In 1946, it became the first church in India to be granted the status of Minor Basilica. On the west, the three-storey Renaissance facade combines Corinthian, Doric, Ionic and Composite styles. This Basilica houses the mortal remains of St Francis Xavier who was responsible for bringing Christianity to Goa. Also visit the Se Cathedral with its ornate gold painted wood carved main altar as well as mural paintings dating back to the 15th century. You then visit a Spice Farm for a traditional Goan Lunch. The complex is set in the verdant hill region of Goa and grows a variety of spices. After lunch you will be shown the spices this part of the world is famous for. Look out for the toddy tappers who swing from tree to tree Tarzan style! On the way back stop off for some shopping in Panjim, Goa's capital city.

Day 05	Goa
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Breakfast is at the hotel

Rest of the day is free for leisure (No Transport services)

Meal – Breakfast

Day 06	Goa- Badami	By: Surface
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After breakfast, drive to Badami (233 Kms / 05 Hrs).

On arrival, check in to your hotel.

Badami is famous for its four cave temples - all hewn out of sand stone on the precipice of a hill. Legend has it there were two demon siblings Vatapi and Ilvala, who had a trick by which they could kill and make a meal of mendicants passing by. Their tricks worked until Agastya muni came by and counter-tricked them and brought an end to Vatapi's life. Two of the hills in Badami are supposed to represent the demons Ilvalan and Vatapi.

Meal – Breakfast

Day 07	Goa- Badami
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After breakfast, proceed for half day city tour of Badami. Badami, more than anything else, is known for its rock-cut cave temples. Numbering five, these temples are over thirteen hundred years old. They have been carved out of the red sandstone hills surrounding Badami. Two temples are dedicated to Vishnu, while one is dedicated to Shiva, and other two are related to Jainism and Buddhism. Apart from rock-cut temples, the town also has some other temples and a beautiful tank. Lord Shiva is worshipped as the God of Souls in the Bhootnath Temple. The Agastyatirtha Tank is a beautiful water body considered as holy by the pilgrims. The Archaeological Museum has a good collection of objects from Badami as well as Aihole and Pattadakal. Jambulinga Temple is one of the oldest temples in Badami dedicated to the Trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, and Mahesh (Shiva). Finally, the Badami Fort is a good place to view the entire Badami ruins.

Meal – Breakfast

