

Ancient India

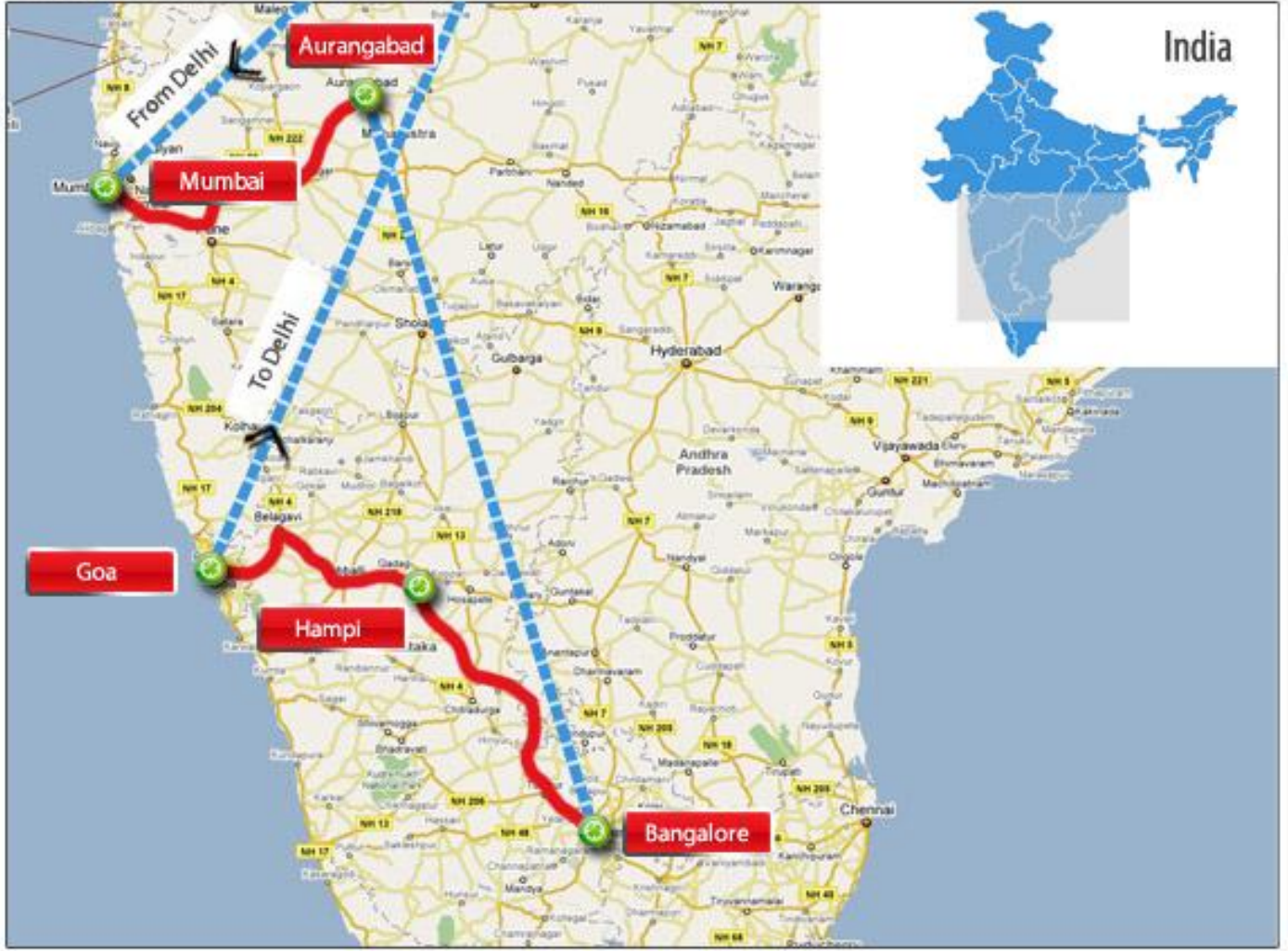


Day 1	We reach Bombay (Mumbai) before noon (if we fly in from Delhi) and spend the evening roaming the streets of this megacity which is the 5th most populous city in the world. You can also book a direct flight to Mumbai international airport from your home country. In that case, company representatives will receive you on arrival at the international airport in Mumbai and take you to your hotel where you rest for the night.
Day 2	We take a 1 hour boat ride to reach Elephanta caves which are on an island off the coast of Mumbai. The structure consists of two groups of caves—the first is a large group of five Hindu caves and the second, a smaller group of two Buddhist caves. The sculptures in these caves date back to the 5th to 8th century. A visit to Elephanta is a whole day activity and we reach Mumbai back in the evening.
Day 3	We take you on a tour of Mumbai showing you how this city in a perpetual state of motion 24 hours in a day. We also take you to the sets of a motion picture being shot and let you take a peek into another wonder Mumbai is known for – Bollywood. Indian cinema got this name in the late 70s when it overtook Hollywood in terms of films produced per year and we still hold that top spot.
Day 4	We take a 7 hour road trip to reach Aurangabad which is known for the Ajanta and Ellora caves which are UNESCO world heritage sites. After reaching Aurangabad, we relax and visit the old town in the evening.
Day 5	We spend the day visiting Ajanta Caves which are 31 rock-cut cave monuments which date from the 2nd century BC. The caves include paintings and sculptures, considered to be masterpieces of both Buddhist religious art as well as frescos which are reminiscent of the Sigiriya paintings in Sri Lanka. Since 1983, the Ajanta Caves have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Day 6	We spend the day visiting Ellora caves. The 34 caves are actually structures excavated out of the vertical face of the Charanandri hills – being Buddhist, Hindu and Jain rock-cut temples and monasteries. These were built between the 5th century and 10th century. The 12 Buddhist (caves 1–12), 17 Hindu (caves 13–29) and 5 Jain (caves 30–34) caves, built in proximity, demonstrate the religious harmony prevalent during this period of Indian history.
Day 7	We travel by air from Aurangabad to Bangalore via Mumbai.
Day 8	From Bangalore, we take a 7 hour road trip to reach Hampi. After reaching Hampi in the evening we explore the city and relax for the night.

Day 9	Hampi's history and existence can be dated back to the 1st century. The village of Hampi lies within the ruins of Vijayanagara, the former capital of the Vijayanagara Empire. Predating the city of Vijayanagara, it continues to be an important religious centre, housing the Virupaksha Temple, as well as several other monuments belonging to the old city. We spend the day visiting this lost city and the surrounding areas.
Day 10	We visit the ruins of Vijayanagara. The city flourished between the 14th century and 16th century, during this time, the empire was often in conflict with the Muslim kingdom. In 1565 AD, the empire's armies suffered a massive and catastrophic defeat at the hands of an alliance of the sultanates, and the capital was taken. The victorious Muslim armies then proceeded to raze, depopulate, and destroy the city and, its Hindu temples and icons over a period of several months. Despite the empire continuing to exist thereafter during a slow decline, the original capital was not reoccupied or rebuilt. It has not been occupied since.
Day 11	We take an 8 hour road trip to reach Goa, the tropical beach paradise of India. Goa's history stretches back to 8000-6000 BC. After reaching Goa, we spend the evening taking a stroll through the city center (called Panjim) where you can sample some local Indian brews and liqueurs.
Day 12	We take you to the famous Basilica of Born Jesus Church in Goa. The Construction work on the church began in 1594 AD and the church was consecrated in May of 1605 AD by the arch bishop, Dom Fr. Aleixo de Menezes. We also take you to Fort Aguada. The fort was constructed by the Portugese in 1612 AD to guard against the Dutch and the Marathas. It was a reference point for the vessels coming from Europe at that time.
Day 13	We spend the day relaxing on the beaches of Goa. We will take you to 3 or 4 of the most popular beaches of Goa namely: Baga, Anjuna, Calangute and Vagator beaches where you can soak in the sun and ponder on your past 12 day journey through time.
Day 14	We travel to Delhi or Mumbai by air.

[See Map on the next page](#)

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— By Road - - - - - By Air