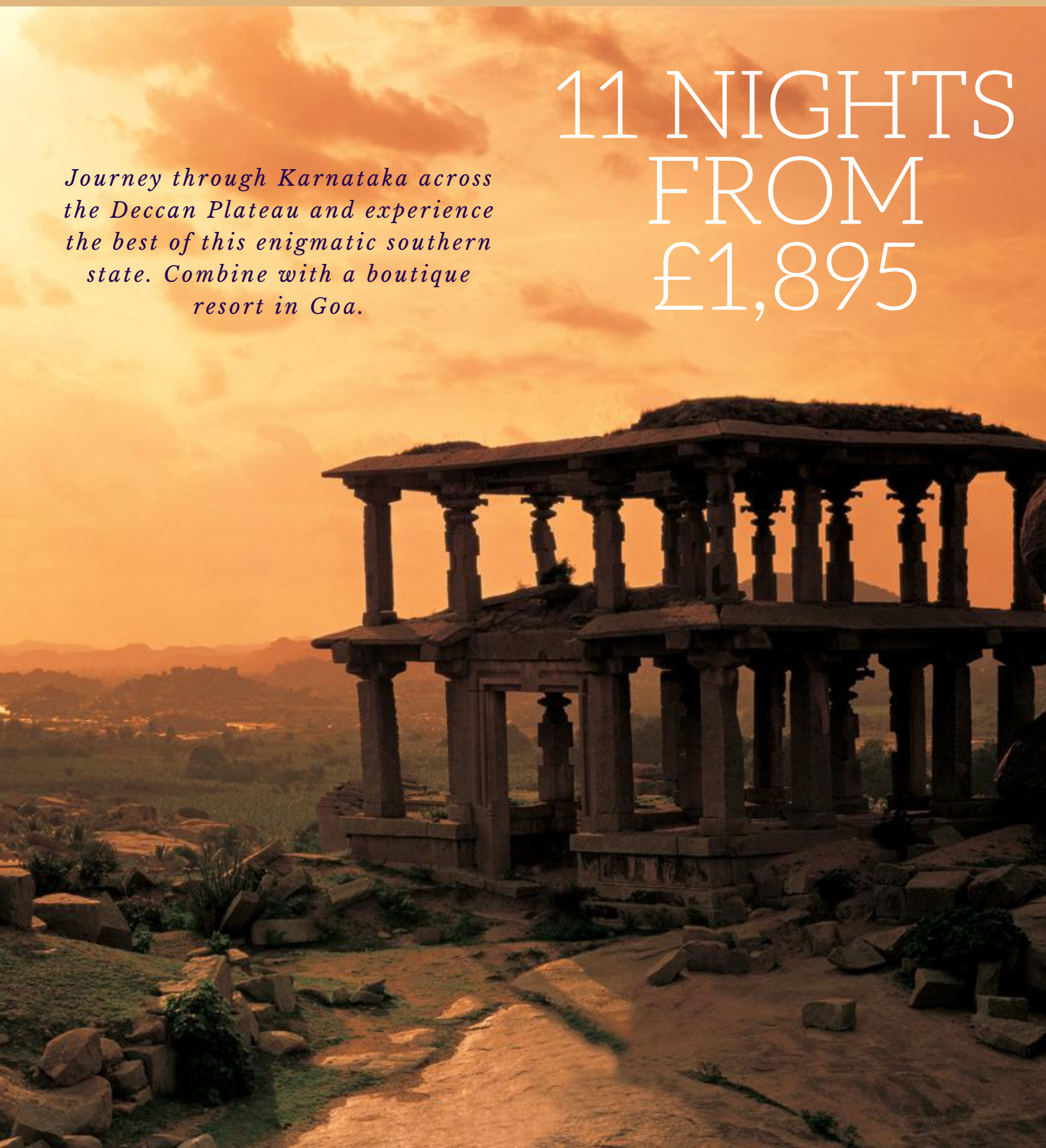


# CLASSIC KARNATAKA

*Journey through Karnataka across the Deccan Plateau and experience the best of this enigmatic southern state. Combine with a boutique resort in Goa.*

11 NIGHTS  
FROM  
£1,895



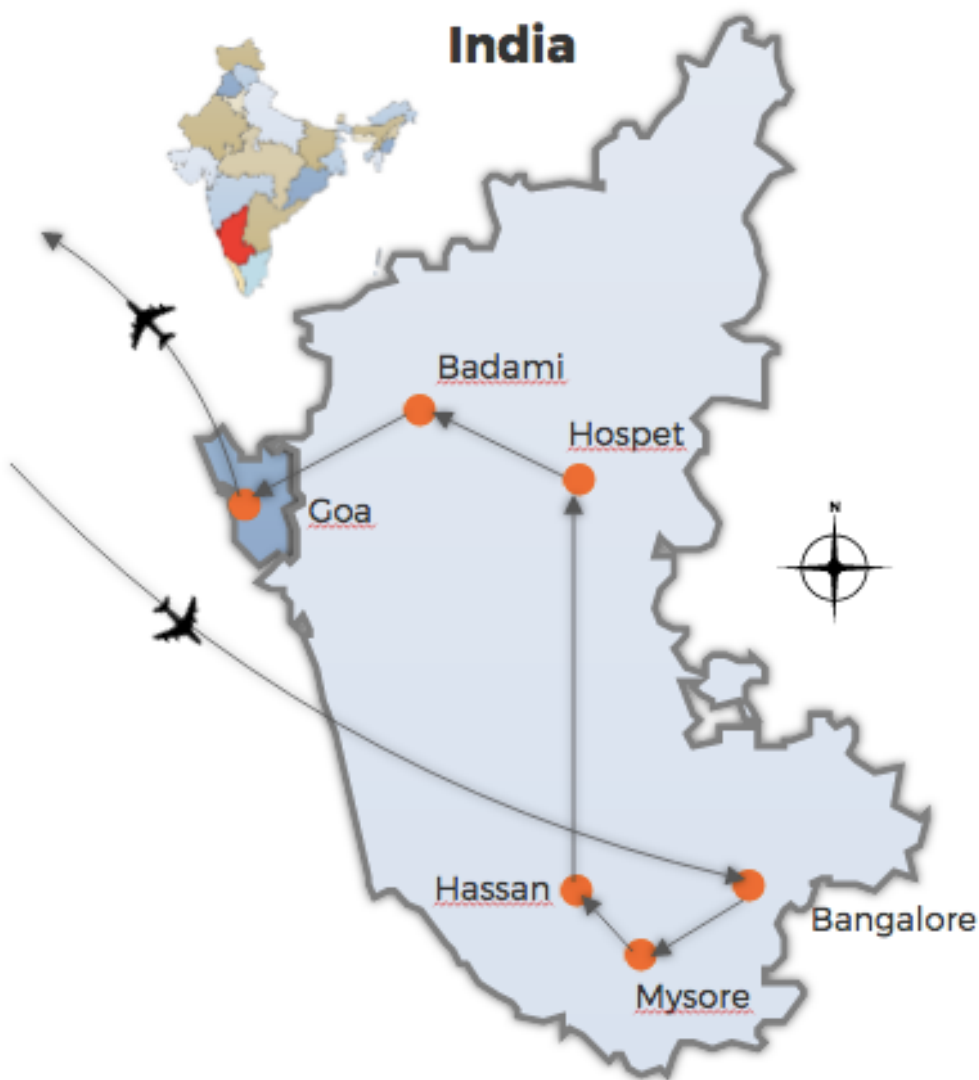
This Classic Karnataka tour covers the best of this historic and cultural Indian state, rounded off with a few nights in a boutique beach resort in Goa.

Fly to Bangalore and begin with a short tour of one of India's most exciting emerging cities - quite a contrast to the rest of Karnataka.

From Bangalore head to Mysore with its magnificent palace and gardens.

From Mysore head further on to the Deccan Plateau and discover the rich heritage of Karnataka in the temple ruins of Hassan, Belur and Halebid.

Continue to beautifully situated Hampi and Badami to conclude a fascinating journey through Karnataka before heading to Goa for a few days of relaxation by some of India's best beaches.



### **Classic Karnataka**

- Day 1: UK - Bangalore
- Day 2: Bangalore
- Day 3: Mysore
- Day 4: Mysore
- Day 5: Hassan
- Day 6: Hospet
- Day 7: Hospet - Hampi
- Day 8: Badami
- Day 9: Goa
- Day 10: Goa
- Day 11: Goa
- Day 12: Goa
- Day 13: Goa - UK

# CLASSIC KARNATAKA

## Day 1: UK - Bangalore

Overnight flight from the UK to Bangalore.

## Day 2: Bangalore

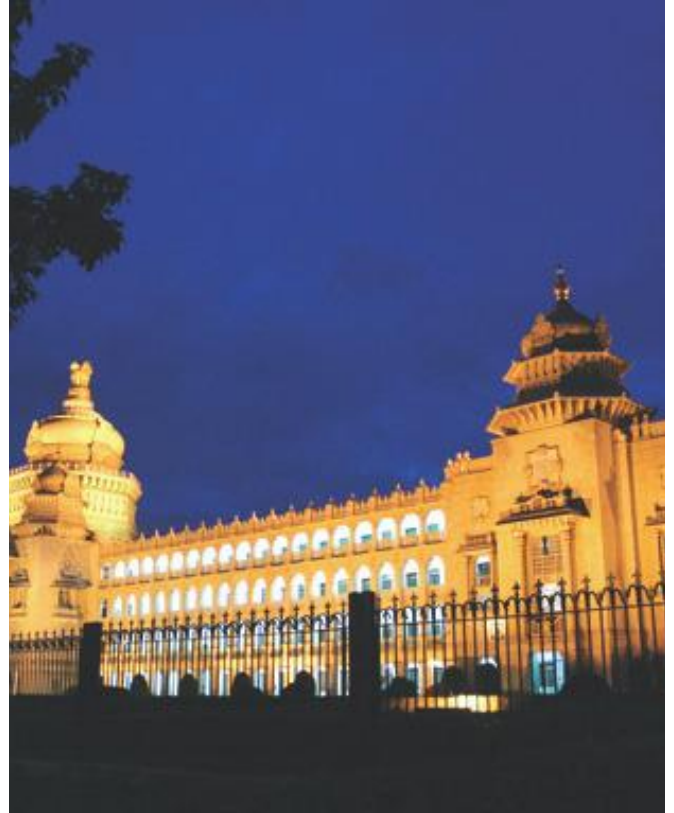
On arrival you will be met and transferred to your chosen hotel.

Bangalore, often referred to as the 'Garden City' is known for its numerous parks and avenues.

In the afternoon, enjoy a sightseeing tour of Bangalore covering Tipu Sultan's Palace, the Nandi Bull Temple, Lalbagh Gardens, Cubbon Park & Museum and Vidhana Soudha, which houses both the State Legislature and the Secretariat.

Overnight: Bangalore

Meals: Breakfast included





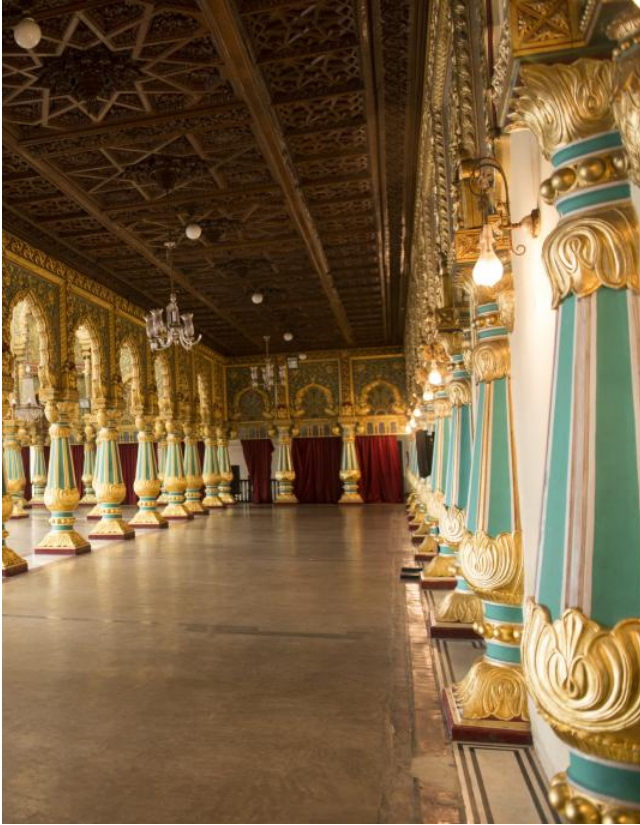
## *Opulent Mysore Palace*



Located in the foothills of the Chamundi Hills, Mysore served as the capital of the Kingdom of Mysore from 1399 until 1956. The opulent Mysore Palace is a real highlight on any journey through Southern India...



# CLASSIC KARNATAKA



## Day 3: Mysore

After breakfast, drive to Mysore.

The capital of a former princely state, Mysore is a city of palaces and gardens and is famous for its silk, sandalwood and jasmine.

En-route, visit the Summer Palace of Tipu Sultan in Srirangapatnam and Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary.

On arrival, check into your chosen hotel and enjoy the evening free to explore the colourful bazaars if you wish.



Overnight: Mysore

Meals: Breakfast included

## Day 4: Mysore

In the morning enjoy a city tour including Mysore Maharaja's Palace, the Nandi Bull and the Chamundi Hills with the afternoon free.

Overnight: Mysore

Meals: Breakfast included

# CLASSIC KARNATAKA

## Day 5: Hassan

After breakfast, drive to Hassan and en-route, visit Shravanabelagola, the legendary pilgrimage centre and shrine of the Jains since early times.

Later continue to Hassan, a pleasant, picturesque town in the heart of Malnad.

In the afternoon, visit Belur and Halebid. Belur is known as the southern Varanasi and is a serene spot with the thousand year old temple of Chennakeshava. Halebid has several strikingly beautiful Hoysala temples and Jain shrines.

Overnight: Hassan

Meals: Breakfast included

## Day 6: Hospet

After breakfast, drive to Hospet, the satellite town built during the reign of Krishnadevaraya.

Hospet is a typical Karnatakan country town with its fascinating Vijayanagar ruins.

Overnight: Hospet

Meals: Breakfast included



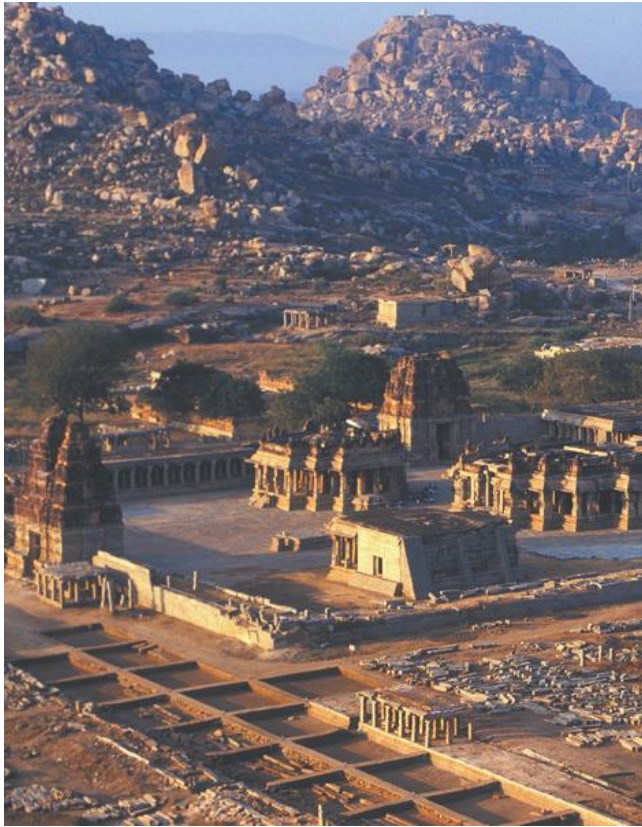


*Hampi is one of the most captivating and  
'spiritual' locations in the South of India.*



Hampi is an ancient village dotted with numerous ruined temple complexes from the Vijayanagara Empire. The landscape here is captivating and other-worldly and contributes to the spiritual ambience of the setting...

# CLASSIC KARNATAKA



## Day 7: Hampi - Hospet

Enjoy a full day excursion to Hampi to explore the evocative ruins and temples.

Formerly the flourishing capital of the Vijayanagar Empire, Hampi was once abundant in wealth, military power and culture.

The Pampati Swami Temple, the Queen's Bath, the Lotus Mahal, the King's Balance and the musical pillars of the Vittala Temple all evoke memories of bygone splendour.

Other main attractions here are the temple complex of Lord Virupaksha, Ugra Narasimha, Matanga Hill and the Vittala Temple Complex.

Enjoy the afternoon at leisure.

Overnight: Hospet

Meals: Breakfast included







*The rock-cut cave temples at Badami.*

The Badami cave temples are a complex of four Hindu, Jain and possibly Buddhist cave temples located in the north of Karnataka. The caves are considered one of the best examples of Indian rock-cut architecture...



# CLASSIC KARNATAKA

## Day 8: Badami

After breakfast, drive to Badami, picturesquely situated at the mouth of a ravine between two rocky hills.

Badami is famous for its cave temples - all hewn out of sandstone on the rock face of a hill.

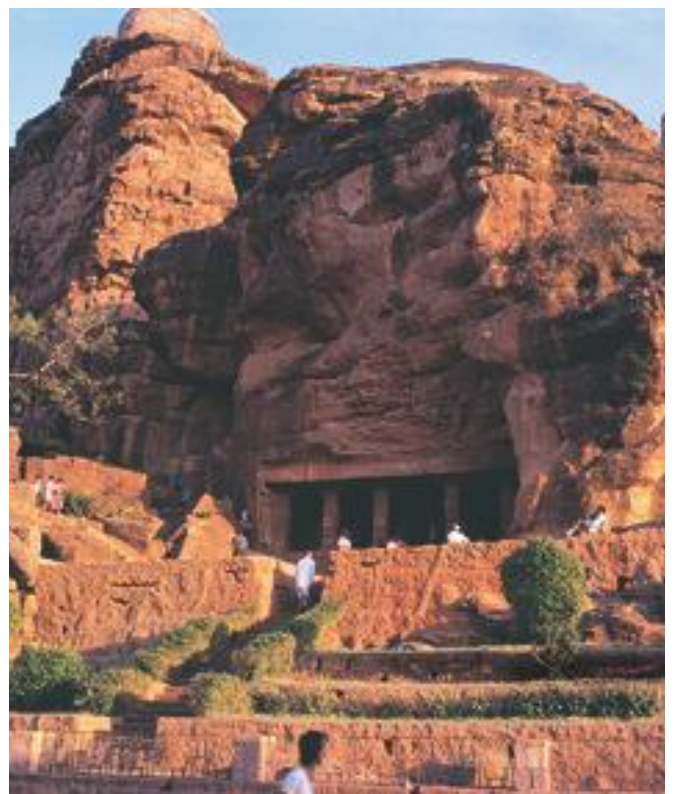
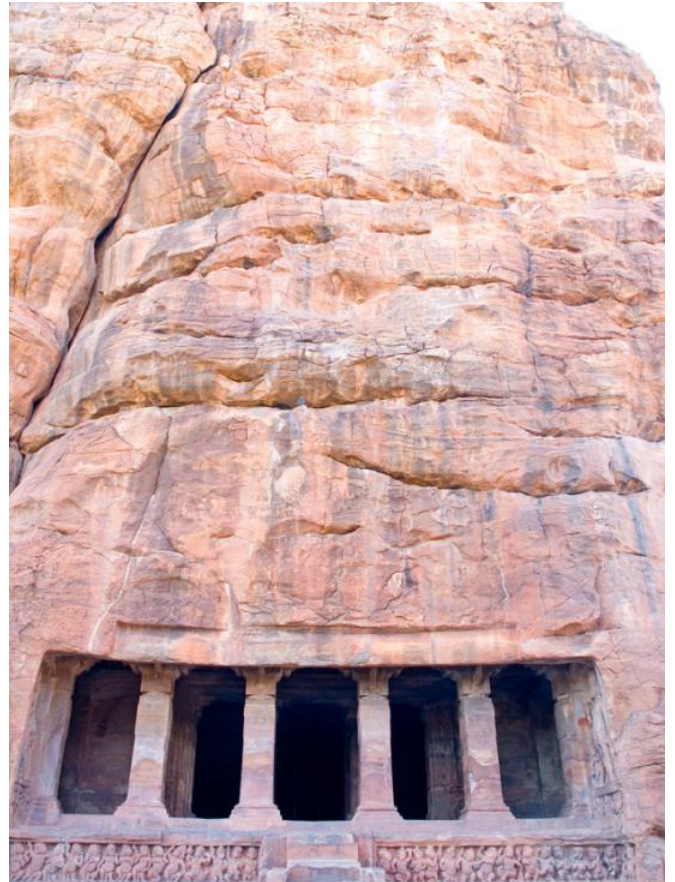
In the afternoon, visit Aihole and Pattadakal.

Aihole was the ancient capital of Chalukyas, famous as the cradle of Indian Architecture, with over a hundred temples scattered around the village, built between the 6th and 8th centuries.

Situated on the left bank of the Malaprabha river, Pattadakal is a world heritage site, with 10 major temples representing early Chalukyan architecture.

Overnight: Badami

Meals: Breakfast included





# CLASSIC KARNATAKA



## Day 9: Goa

After an early breakfast, start the drive to Goa and on arrival check into a beach resort for a 4 night stay.

Goa's coastline provides endless sun-drenched crescents of sand and some of the best beaches in India.

Whitewashed chapels and churches dot the landscape, surrounded by sleepy villages and rice fields.

Overnight: Goa

Meals: Breakfast included



## Days 10 - 12: Goa

On your chosen day, enjoy a half-day tour of Goa including the churches and Panjim city.

Other excursions can be added if you wish.

Overnight: Goa

Meals: Breakfast included

# CLASSIC KARNATAKA

## Day 13: Goa - UK

Transfer to the airport for your flight back to the UK.

## Day 14: UK

Arrive back in the UK (or on day 13 depending on flight schedule).





Cultural Journey including Goa

# Experience Classic Karnataka

Karnataka is a tapestry of colours, cultures, flavours, landscapes, timelessness and heart stopping beauty.

It's a place where vibrant worlds seamlessly meld into one another every few hundred kilometres.

Sedate plains suddenly rise to dizzying mist covered hilly heights before plunging with careless abandon in a white-watered free-fall to become languid rivers that flow past cities where time seems to have stopped altogether.

Karnataka also has cities with both feet in the modern world, notably Bangalore, India's own answer to Silicon Valley.

Host to some of India's largest and most powerful dynasties, Karnataka has across the centuries, carried a rich legacy of art and culture - most notably in the temple architecture around which this journey focuses.

Goa of course is very familiar to UK travellers whether it's to those who hit the back-packing trail or those who have jetted off for a short break with one of the charter holiday companies. Despite a degree of commercialisation, Goa's languid vibe still manages to charm.

As with all of our trips, everything is tailor-made and can be adjusted to suit your interests, time-scale and budget, so just let us know your preferences.

October to February is generally considered the best time of year to visit Karnataka, with lower temperatures and generally settled weather. March to May sees higher temperatures and humidity - prepare for hot and himid in April or May. June to September is the main 'monsoon' season with higher rainfall - some of the highest in fact in all of India.

A visa is required for all UK passport holders travelling to India. These can be obtained easily via an online application. We can assist by providing details.

This Karnataka journey can easily be combined with a stop in Mumbai or an extension into Kerala or neighbouring Tamil Nadu.





Karnataka has a population of close to 70 million people, over half of whom are employed in agriculture.

The Kannada language serves as the official language of Karnataka and is spoken by around 65% of the population.

Traditional folk arts cover the entire gamut of music, dance, drama and

storytelling by itinerant troupes.

Yakshagana (below) is a traditional theatre form combining dance, music, dialogue, costume, make-up, and stage techniques with a unique style and form.

The state has three broad geographic areas; the coastal region, the hilly Melanadu region (comprising the Western Ghats) and the Deccan Plateau.





Goa is a well-established beach holiday destination on India's Arabian Sea coast and offers a laid-back destination for relaxation at the end of a tour of India.

With something of a reputation for hippies, raves and charter holiday hotels, Goa might have a reputation as being the "Ibiza of India", but rest assured there is more to Goa beyond bland hotels or

back-packers beach shacks. Alongside popular beaches such as Baga, Palolem and Vagatar, Goa offers historic attractions dating back to the Portuguese era in the 17th Century.

Spice plantations, an exciting cuisine, a handful of authentic boutique hotels and the dreamy relaxing atmosphere make Goa a compelling destination.





# EXTEND YOUR TRIP



SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE

## ADD ON MUMBAI

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2 nights from  
£285 pp

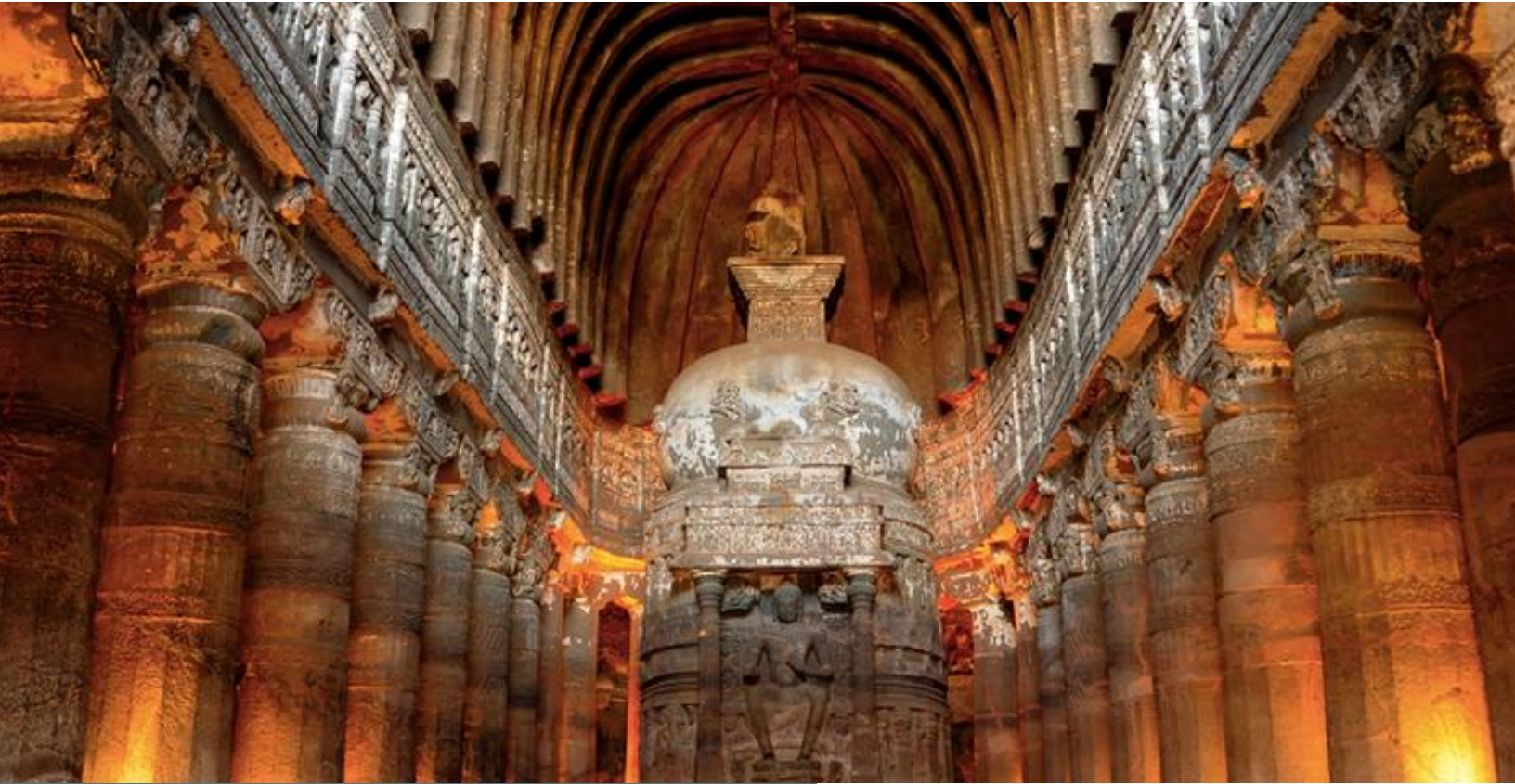
Mumbai is India's largest city and the country's financial centre, with some of the most expensive real estate in the world as well as being the home of 'Slumdog Millionaire'.

On the Mumbai Harbour waterfront stands the iconic Gateway of India stone arch, built by the British Raj in 1924.

Offshore, nearby Elephanta Island holds ancient cave temples dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. Mumbai is also famous as the heart of the Bollywood film industry.

Add on a stop in Mumbai and experience quite a contrast to the temples of Karnataka and the laid-back rhythms of Goa.

# EXTEND YOUR TRIP



A PASSAGE TO INDIA

## AJANTA & ELLORA CAVES

---

1 night from  
£185 pp

For those familiar with E.M Forster's 'A Passage to India', the Ajanta Caves were the real life inspiration for the fictional Malabar Caves, setting for one of the most memorable passages in the novel.

The 30 or so rock-cut Buddhist caves at Ajanta represent the birth of Indian Art, some dating back to the 2nd century BC (others to the 5th & 6th centuries AD).

Ellora is one of the largest rock-cut monastery-temple caves complexes in the world, with Buddhist, Hindu and Jain art dating from the 7th to the 10th centuries. A highlight is the magnificent Kailasha Temple.

This trip is undertaken as an overnight excursion from Mumbai



# DATES & PRICES

## Travel Dates Guide Price

Oct - Mar:	from £2,025 pp
Apr - Jun:	from £2,225 pp
Jul - Sep:	from £1,895 pp

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Please contact us for confirmed prices as prices are all subject to change, dates and availability. Remember that all of our India Holidays can be tailored to suit your interests and dates.

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