



Deccan Odyssey - 2016-17

JEWELS OF THE DECCAN

Mumbai - Bijapur - Aihole & Pattadakal - Hampi - Hyderabad - Ellora Caves - Ajanta Caves – Mumbai

Welcome to Jewels of the Deccan, an 8-day journey through India's Deccan plateau on India's premier luxury train, the Deccan Odyssey, that takes you through tales and architectural wonders of the Adil Shahi dynasty of Bijapur to the Chalukyan in Aihole & Pattadakal, onto the powerful Vijayanagara kingdom in Hampi to the contrasting styles of the Qutb Shahi dynasty of Golconda and the Asaf Jahi, established later in Hyderabad and finally visits to some of the most prominent & unexplored destinations of west-central India, with a trip to the unrivaled Ajanta & Ellora Caves. Sprinkled among these stories and fables, are visits to quaint little towns famed for hand operated looms that weave vast quantities of beautiful fabric, and samplings of some of the best Dakkhani cuisine to be had. A railroad journey like none other, in a land like no other, we welcome you on board the Deccan Odyssey.

Per Cabin per Journey Price for 7 Nights / 8 Days Journey

Rooming	Single Occupancy	Twin / Double Occupancy	02 CHILDREN (in a separate Cabin)
Deluxe Cabin	6,391	9,225	6,919
Presidential Suite	13,837	13,837	6,919

Departure Dates: 18th Feb'17, 11th Mar'17 & 22nd Apr'17

- All costs are in US\$ and applicable for Foreign Nationals only.
- The above costs are per cabin per Journey
- **Government Service tax of 4.5%. will be additional and will be charged extra on the published tariff**
- As the train runs on the tracks of the Indian Railways, the itineraries are subject to change incase of any changes in the routing etc.
- Prices are subject to change incase of any amendment in the routing or other hikes such as fuel, taxes etc.
- Children below 5 years of age shall be allowed free, subject to sharing of double bed with parents. This is subject to availability of double bed at the time of booking
- Presidential Suite can accommodate upto 3 adults or 2 Adults and 2 children (One child upto 5 years of age and second child up to 12 years of age)

CHILD POLICY

- Deccan Odyssey does accommodate children but we ask parents to be mindful of the sophisticated adult atmosphere we endeavor to maintain.
- One child up to 5 years of age shall be allowed free of cost in the Deluxe Cabin, subject to sharing of double bed with parents. This is subject to availability of double bed at the time of booking.
- For families, with a child between 6-12 years of age, or, with two children with one child below 5 years and another between 6-12 years, we recommend the Presidential Suite which has a double bed in the bedroom and can be shared with a child below 5 years and a sofa cum bed in the living room which can accommodate the older child. In this case, the child/children will be accommodated free of cost
- In case of two children between 6-12 years of age travelling with their parents, you will have to take
- 2 cabins. The first child pays 25% of the adult fare and the second child will have to pay 50% of the adult fare. One of the parents will have to be present with the child / children in the cabin.

- Please note that we do not have the facility for interconnecting cabins.
- All applicable taxes will be charged extra.

Inclusions:

- Accommodation in double / twin bedded cabin with en suite bathrooms
- All meals (B, L, D)
- Soft Beverages during the journey
- Valet Service
- Still Camera fees
- Guided off train excursions and game drives as illustrated in the itinerary - inclusive of entrance fees, park fees, transport and services of an English speaking local guide

Exclusions:

- Taxes, Insurance, Gratuities
- Laundry, Alcoholic Beverages, Soft beverages during non-meal hours
- Video and professional Still Camera fees
- Arrival and Departure transfers
- International and Domestic air tickets
- Pre and Post tour accommodation and any tour extensions unless specifically mentioned as a part of the journey

ITINERARY:

Day 1 Saturday

Board the Deccan Odyssey at Mumbai – on to Bijapur

Welcome aboard the Deccan Odyssey.

Early this evening assemble at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus at approximately 1530 hours to complete the registration process and check in formalities for your *Jewels of the Deccan* journey, as you receive a traditional Indian welcome and enjoy a refreshing welcome drink.

After completion of all formalities, you will be shown to your delightful cabins. As you settle in, the Deccan Odyssey shall depart Mumbai for Bijapur in Karnataka.

Dinner on board & Overnight on Deccan Odyssey

Day 2 Sunday

Bijapur

Relish breakfast this morning as the Deccan Odyssey arrives at Bijapur, the historic capital of the Sultans of Deccan.

Established between the 10th and 11th centuries by the Kalyani Chalukyas, Bijapur changed hands often, passing into the hands of new conquerors and invaders. In the second half of 16th and early 17th century, under the aegis of the Adil Shahi dynasty, their capital city of Bijapur occupied a prominent place among the celebrated cities of India and even surpassed great cities of Delhi, Agra and Mughal India. Due to the secular nature and liberal patronage of the Adil Shahi Sultans, many scholars, poets, painters, dancers, calligraphers, musicians, Sufi saints and other men of arts flocked to Bijapur which also came to be known as the 'Palmyra of the Deccan'

After breakfast, disembark and first head to the *Gol Gumbaz*, literally 'round dome', and the second largest tomb in the world; the [mausoleum](#) of Adil Shah, the [Sultan of Bijapur](#), it is a structural triumph of [Deccan](#) architecture, with a circular gallery where the tiniest of whispers gets magnified owing to the unique acoustics of the dome.

Next, head to the Jumma Masjid, known as one of the first mosques in India and then onto Malik-e-Maidan, the largest medieval cannon in the world. Don't hesitate to make a wish here as legend has it that if you touch the gun and make a wish, it will come true!

Visit Mehtar Mahal, a 17th century ornamental gateway to a mosque. Then, drive to and explore Ibrahim Rouza, considered amongst the most elegant Islamic monuments in India; its 24m high minarets said to have inspired those of the Taj Mahal.

Return to the Deccan Odyssey for lunch on board as it departs for Aihole & Pattadakal.

Spend the evening marveling at the subtly changing shades of the formidable granite landscape as the Deccan Odyssey snakes its way through the Deccan plateau.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner on board & Overnight on the Deccan Odyssey

Day 3 Monday

Aihole - Pattadakal

Rise early this morning, and after breakfast head out to explore the temples and ancient settlements of Aihole and Pattadakal, one of the world's largest temple complexes.

Aihole, is often called the cradle of Indian architecture. Explore a few of the over 70 rock cut temples constructed by the Chalukyan kings in a completely experimental style, with each temple different from the others in the complex and even from other temples in India itself.

Continue on to Pattadakal situated on the banks of the Malaprabha River and explore the architectural style here which combines South Indian (Dravidian) and North Indian (Nagara) forms. In fact this architecture can be seen to have influenced later architecture commissioned by the Hoysala and other dynasties.

For lunch, head back to the Deccan Odyssey. Post lunch, you can choose an **optional tour** to the lovely weaving village of Guledgud, famous for its hand and power looms of ilkal and khann. Observe the process of weaving and head to an outlet where you can pick up lovely souvenirs to carry back home. **OR** visit the rock cut caves and sculptured temples in Badami

Head back to the Deccan Odyssey for dinner as it makes its way to Hampi

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner on board & Overnight on Deccan Odyssey

Day 4 Tuesday

Hampi

This morning as you enjoy breakfast, the Deccan Odyssey rolls into Hospet. Today you will visit the iconic City of Victory - Hampi, a World Heritage site, famous for its splendid architecture, sculptures and their historical significance.

A short drive quickly changes your landscape from the city bustle to sentient massive boulders as you reach Hampi. Stop at the Narasimha statue and spend some time taking pictures and looking around.

Next head to the mustard Ganesh, located at the base of the Hemkuta hills, and quite a misnomer as the elephant God statue here is anything but small! Take in the breathtaking vistas around the hills with their little caves and alcoves. Walk the banks of the Tungabhadra River as you leave the Virupaksha temple on to the famed Vittala temple, the polar power sites of Hampi, one a living temple, the other a most extravagant architectural showpiece.

Head back to Hospet for lunch on board the Deccan Odyssey

Post lunch, disembark once more to continue your exploration, reaching the Royal Center at Hampi. This area was the citadel of the Vijayanagara kings and encompasses courtly and military structures. Visit the Queens Bath, the Stepped Tank, the Mahanavami Dibba or great platform, where a ramp is available to reach its summit, the Hazararama Temple, the Queens Enclosure with its Lotus Mahal and the Elephant stables.

After a full day of visiting the wonders of Hampi, return to the Hospet station. Board the Deccan Odyssey for your onward journey to Hyderabad as you sit down at dinner.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner on board & Overnight on Deccan Odyssey

Day 5 Wednesday

Hyderabad

This morning the Deccan Odyssey rolls into royal city of the Nizams, Hyderabad. Legends abound over how this capital of the Asaf Jahi dynasty came to be called Hyderabad. One of the more interesting ones is that it was named after Bhagmati, the Hindu wife of Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, who converted to Islam and changed her name to Hyder Mahal.

After an early breakfast this morning, disembark and drive towards the epitome of Nizami culture and grandeur, Golconda. Originally a mud fort, it soon acquired impressive proportions after becoming the seat of power of the Qutub Shahi dynasty.

Return to the Deccan Odyssey for lunch and a little rest.

Alternately, you could also choose to take an **optional shopping tour**. Hyderabad is a city known for its pearls, lac bangles and custom made oil based fragrances or "ittars" amongst other specials. Spend your morning shopping and follow it up with lunch comprising the famed Hyderabad Biryani.

