



**Tour Name : Western Coast of India**

**Duration ; 14 Nights / 15 Days**

**About the tour:**

The western coast of India is located between Kerala and Gujarat and extends from the Arabian Sea to the Western Ghats. Its total length is 1400 km, width ranges from 10 km to 80 km, and the elevation ranges from 150 m to 300 m above sea level. It is characterized by sandy beaches, mud-flats, sand-dunes, alluvial tracts, estuaries, lagoons, residual hills and more. It lacks deltas as the short and swift rivers are not able to make deltas in this coast.

## Outline Itinerary

### **Day 01: Mumbai**

On arrival at Mumbai airport meet with our office executive assistance and transfer to hotel (hotels check in time 1200hr afternoon, early check in subject to rooms availability). Rest time free for personal activities relax. Overnight at hotel.

### **Day 02: Mumbai**

Breakfast at hotel. Excursion to Elephanta Island located 10kms away from the Gateway of India. Motorboats take passengers from Gateway of India to Elephanta Island. These caves house rock cut temples dating back to the 5th century BC.

Later Mumbai city tour. Visit the Gateway of India, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (museum). Marine Drive which runs along the shoreline, starting at Nariman Point and up to Malabar Hill. Hanging Gardens laid out in 1881 these formally laid out gardens have a notable collection of hedges shaped like animals. Overnight at hotel.

### **Day 03; Mumbai - Alibaug (100km/ 2hr approx)**

Breakfast at hotel drive to Alibaug check in at hotel. Rest time free and easy to relax. Overnight at beach resort.

### **Day 04; Alibaug**

Breakfast at resort. Excursion to trek Kanakeshwar temple - the old temple of Lord Shiva is about 12 km away from Alibag and falls on the way to Mandawa. The temple of Kanakeshwar is very beautiful, it is a 'Hoysal' style structure built in 1764. A water tank - popular known as 'Pushkarni' has water almost through out the year. Kanakeshwar is a place to feel the jungle and silence of the jungle and hills.

Alibag Beach - The main beach of the town Alibag beach is totally pollution free. Walking on the sandy beach is quite pleasant, the waves bring the water close to your feet and because of this one can't resist himself from entering the water. Fresh air, Sandy beach, sight of the Colaba fort are the major attractions. In addition to that you may enjoy Bhel-puri, Coconut water, Ice-cream, Sea Food, Alu Bonda etc. Alibag other beaches are Akshi Beach, Nagaon beach, Kihim Beach, Mandwa Beach & Kashid Beach.

Rest time free and easy to relax on the beach. Overnight at beach resort.

**Day 05; Alibaug - Ratnagiri (300km/ 6hr approx)**

Breakfast at resort drive to Ratnagiri via visiting Murud-Janjira Fort Murud-Janjira Fort - that remained unconquered by the Marathas, the Dutch and the English, is a majestic fort palace, on a cliff overlooking the sea. Janjira is considered one of the strongest marine forts in India and can be approached by sailboats from Rajapuri jetty. The main gate of the fort faces Rajapuri on the shore and can be seen only when one is about 40 feet (12 m) away from it. It has a small postern gate towards the open sea for escape. The fort has 26 rounded bastions, still intact. There are many cannons of native and European make rusting on the bastions. Now in ruins, the fort in its heyday was a full-fledged living fort with all the necessary facilities, e.g., palaces, quarters for officers, mosque, two small 60-foot-deep (18 m) natural fresh water lakes, etc. The palace of the Nawabs of Janjira at Murud is still in good shape. Special attraction of this fort are 3 gigantic cannons named Kalalbangdi, Chavri and Landa Kasam. These cannons were said to be feared for their shooting range.

Continue drive to Ratnagiri check in at hotel. Overnight at hotel.

**Day 06; Ratnagiri - Sindhudurg - Goa (295km/ 6hr approx)**

Breakfast at hotel visit the Thibaw Palace - this three-storeyed brick and teakwood palace was where King Thibaw, the last king of Myanmar, was under house arrest when he was exiled to India by the British. His story is one of a king who never saw his kingdom again, destined to die in a sleepy coastal town. Even today, the beautiful structure seems to exude his sadness. After sightseeing drive to Goa enroute visit Sindhudurg Fort. The Great Shivaji Maharaj brought 200 Vaddera people for building this fort. Over 4,000 pounds of lead were used in the casting and foundation stones were firmly laid down. Construction started on 25 November 1664. Built over a period of three years (1664-1667), the sea fort is spread over 48 acres, with a two-mile (3 km) long rampart, and walls that are 30 feet (9.1 m) high and 12 feet (3.7 m) thick. The massive walls were designed to serve as a deterrent to approaching enemies and to the waves and tides of the Arabian Sea. The main entrance is concealed in such a way that no one can pinpoint it from outside.

Continue drive to Goa a popular tropical beach destination in India on the Arabian sea coast. The whole of the Konkan coast has almost the same weather and climate. The monsoons are torrential in Goa and the shores are filled with coconut groves and sandy beaches. Until 1961, Goa was a colony of Portugal and an Indo-Portuguese cultural element is very much evident here.

On one side you see a lot of crowded beaches, bars, discotheque, pubs and restaurants, which is the most happening part of Goa. But on the other side, South Goa is pristine, calms, rustic, agrarian, and nature oriented. Food is awesome in Goa, the Vindaloos, Cafreals, are some of the lipsmacking masalas in which meat and vegetables are cooked. Goan pork sausages are like hanging beads, you can see them if you get a chance to visit the markets. Goan

fish curry rice, Rava fried fish, Kaju Feni & Limca, Kokum & Bibinca are all authentic to Goa. There is much more in Goa than sun, sand and sea. Overnight at hotel.

### **Day 07: Goa**

Breakfast at hotel full day city tour of Goa covering: Churches of Old Goa, Panjim city, Altinho, Dona Paula viewpoint.

Basilica of Bom Jesus A World Heritage Site. The Basilica of Bom Jesus is famous for the preserved mortal remains of St. Francis Xavier. He was the member of Society of Jesus and came to India to spread Christianity with the Portuguese. Se Cathedral: Largest church in Asia, giant bells and exquisite architecture. Se Cathedral of Goa is dedicated to St. Catherine of Alexandria. This magnificent edifice was built in the 16th century under the Portuguese rule in India. The construction of the church began in 1562 and finished in 1619.

Church of St. Francis of Assisi: A stunning & charming building, architecture has a combination of Hindu and Christian elements. The Church was built during 1517-1521 AD now converted into a museum.

Church of St Augustine Ruins: 46 meter high tower church was built in 1602 with the combined efforts of 12 Augustinians. They also built a convent besides the church. However, the Portuguese government in India put a ban on them and they abandoned the church and the convent.

Church of Marry Immaculate Conception: one of the most famous landmarks of Goa. This church is supposed to be one of the earliest churches to be constructed in Goa. The church looks magnificent and stunningly beautiful. The decoration inside the church is relatively simple, still exudes charm and beauty. The church that is present here today was supposed to have been rebuilt in 1619 from an earlier church.

Panjim City: the capital of Goa popularly known as the seat of the Government. Panjim is located on the south bank of the wide Mandovi River and is one of India's smallest and pleasantest state capitals. The Panjim town has preserved its Portuguese heritage remarkably well and parts of it still consist of narrow winding streets, old houses with over hanging balconies, red-tiled roofs and numerous small bars and cafe's. Signs in Portuguese can still be seen over shops, cafe's and administrative buildings. Fontainhas, transfers you back into the Portuguese days since it has retained its old charm and character. Within the commercial heart of the city rises majestically, the white-washed 'Church of the Immaculate Conception' founded in 1540. Rest time free and easy to relax. Overnight at hotel.

### **Day 08: Goa**

Breakfast at hotel. Day free and easy to relax. and explore the site of your interest by your own. Overnight at hotel.

**Day 09: Goa - Karwar - Gokarna (235km/ 5hr)**

Breakfast at hotel drive to Gokarna enroute visit Karwar a port city in the South Indian state of Karnataka. It's known for beaches like Rabindranath Tagore Beach, with dive spots, and black-sand Tilmati Beach to the north. The INS Chapal (K94) Warship Museum, in a former missile boat, has artifacts and videos on the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971. The hilltop Sadashivgad Fort has a temple dedicated to the goddess Durga, plus views of the Kali River and Arabian Sea.

Arrive Gokarna check in at hotel. Rest time to relax on the hippy paradise beach. Overnight at hotel.

**Day 10: Gokarna - Udupi - Mangalore (235km/ 5hr)**

Breakfast at hotel visit The Mahabaleshwar temple a pilgrim center considered holy for Hindus. Later drive to Mangalore enroute visit Udupi known for its Hindu temples, including the huge, 13th-century Sri Krishna Temple, which houses a statue of Lord Krishna and attracts many pilgrims. Nearby, the ancient Anantheshwara Temple is dedicated to the god Shiva. The Corporation Bank Heritage Museum features coins dating from 400 BC, plus stamps and displays about India's banking industry.

Continue drive to Mangalore check in at hotel. Evening visit the Marvel of Mangalore St. Aloysius Chapel located at the St. Aloysius College. The interior of the chapel is completely hand painted by Italian Jesuit Antonio Moscheni in 1899. The doors and windows of the chapel are closed as part of preserving the paintings, and photography is prohibited. Overnight at hotel.

**Day 11: Mangalore - Bekal - Kannur - Thalassery - Kozhikode (250km/ 5hr)**

Breakfast at hotel, drive to Kozhikode via visiting Bekal, Kannur & Thalassery The Historic Bekal fort appears to emerge from the sea. Almost three quarters of its exterior is in contact with water. Bekal fort was not an administrative centre and doesn't include any palace or mansion. An important feature is the water-tank, magazine and the flight of steps leading to an observation tower built by Tipu Sultan. Its solid construction resembles the Thalassery Fort and the St. Angelo Fort at Kannur built by the Dutch.

Further drive to Kannur and visit 16th-century St. Angelo Fort, once occupied by European colonial forces, show the city's significant role in the spice trade. Thalassery one of the strategic centers of the British India, there have been several Anglo-Indian wars fought at Thalassery. The Thalassery Fort that overlooks the sea stands as a mute witness to all these wars fought. Continue drive to Kozhikode check in at hotel. Overnight at hotel.

**Day 12: Kozhikode - Guruvayoor - Cochin (190km/ 4hr)**

Breakfast at hotel, explore Cochin enroute visit Guruvayoor a pilgrimage town. It's known for centuries-old, red-roofed Guruvayur Temple, where Hindu devotees make offerings of fruit, spices or coins, often equivalent to their own weight. Nearby, Mammiyur Mahadeva Temple contains shrines to the deities Vishnu and Shiva. South of town, St. Thomas Church is believed to have been established by the apostle St. Thomas in 52 AD.

Continue drive to Cochin check in at hotel. Rest time free and easy to relax. Overnight at hotel.

**Day 13: Cochin**

Breakfast at hotel, city tour of Cochin. visit St. Francis Church (the first European church built in India), The Paradeshi Synagogue (the oldest of the commonwealth), the Mattancherry Palace (built by Portuguese and gifted to Kochi Maharaja). Activities include harbor cruises through the backwaters, Kathakali (A classic Kerala Drama) and Kalaripayattu shows (Keralan Martial Art) at local theaters. Overnight at hotel.

**Day 14: Cochin - Alleppey (60km/ 1hr) Overnight Cruise in the Backwaters Canals**

Breakfast at hotel, drive to Alleppey a backwater town. The backwaters here are serene and beautiful. Alleppey is referred to as the Venice of the East, due to canals, backwaters, and lagoons. Boats are the main mode of transportation here. You can see a lot of boats around, Shikara boats, small motor boats, passenger boats, cargo boat, and houseboats. Alleppey leads in coconut fiber production and makes different products out of coconut fiber like that of floor mats, coir ropes, handicrafts and a lot more.

Board a houseboat from here and enjoy the cruise through the enchanting backwaters. Houseboat comprises double/twin bed room, with attached bathrooms, running water, and a lounge area in which to relax and enjoy the sights on the shore. Start sail through scenic backwaters, passing through one of the few areas in the world where farming is done below sea level. Lunch and dinner on board. Overnight in cruise.

**Day 15: Cochin - Departure**

After breakfast disembark houseboat and drive to Cochin. Direct transfer to airport to board flight for onward destination.

**Price details:**

**Price using 3 star hotels valid from 1st October 2019 till 31st March 2020**

Particular	Per person price staying in SINGLE occupancy rooms			Per person price sharing DOUBLE/ TWIN occupancy rooms			Per person price sharing TRIPLE occupancy rooms (double room with extra bed)		
	INR	Euro	USD	INR	Euro	USD	INR	Euro	USD
1 person	₹356,618	€ 4,755	\$5,403	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2 person	₹234,118	€ 3,122	\$3,547	₹189,485	€ 2,526	\$2,871	N/A	N/A	N/A
3 person	₹202,108	€ 2,695	\$3,062	₹196,844	€ 2,625	\$2,982	₹150,098	€ 2,001	\$2,274
4 person	₹192,904	€ 2,572	\$2,923	₹185,340	€ 2,471	\$2,808	₹140,895	€ 1,879	\$2,135
5 person	₹176,647	€ 2,355	\$2,676	₹165,018	€ 2,200	\$2,500	₹124,637	€ 1,662	\$1,888
6 person	₹174,522	€ 2,327	\$2,644	₹162,362	€ 2,165	\$2,460	₹122,512	€ 1,633	\$1,856
7 person	₹165,536	€ 2,207	\$2,508	₹151,129	€ 2,015	\$2,290	₹113,526	€ 1,514	\$1,720
8 person	₹158,796	€ 2,117	\$2,406	₹142,705	€ 1,903	\$2,162	₹106,786	€ 1,424	\$1,618
Child 5-11yrs	₹30,882			€ 412			\$468		
Child below 5yrs	Free								
H B supplement	₹12,390			€ 165			\$188		
Additional night in Mumbai	₹9,559	€ 127	\$145	₹5,515	€ 74	\$84	₹4,657	€ 62	\$71

Price using 4 star hotels valid from 1st October 2019 till 31st March 2020										
Particular	Per person price staying in SINGLE occupancy rooms			Per person price sharing DOUBLE/ TWIN occupancy rooms			Per person price sharing TRIPLE occupancy rooms (double room with extra bed)			
	Currency	INR	Euro	USD	INR	Euro	USD	INR	Euro	USD
1 person	₹401,176	€ 5,349	\$6,078	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2 person	₹253,088	€ 3,375	\$3,835	₹189,485	€ 2,526	\$2,871	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3 person	₹221,078	€ 2,948	\$3,350	₹196,844	€ 2,625	\$2,982	₹172,892	€ 2,305	\$2,620	
4 person	₹211,875	€ 2,825	\$3,210	₹185,340	€ 2,471	\$2,808	₹163,689	€ 2,183	\$2,480	
5 person	₹195,618	€ 2,608	\$2,964	₹165,018	€ 2,200	\$2,500	₹147,431	€ 1,966	\$2,234	
6 person	₹193,493	€ 2,580	\$2,932	₹162,362	€ 2,165	\$2,460	₹145,306	€ 1,937	\$2,202	
7 person	₹184,506	€ 2,460	\$2,796	₹151,129	€ 2,015	\$2,290	₹136,320	€ 1,818	\$2,065	
8 person	₹177,767	€ 2,370	\$2,693	₹142,705	€ 1,903	\$2,162	₹129,580	€ 1,728	\$1,963	
Child 5-11yrs	₹48,088			€ 641			\$729			
Child below 5yrs	Free									
H B supplement	₹16,765			€ 224			\$254			
Additional night in Mumbai	₹13,235	€ 176	\$201	₹7,353	€ 98	\$111	₹6,127	€ 82	\$93	

Price using 5 star hotels valid from 1st October 2019 till 31st March 2020										
Particular	Per person price staying in SINGLE occupancy rooms			Per person price sharing DOUBLE/ TWIN occupancy rooms			Per person price sharing TRIPLE occupancy rooms (double room with extra bed)			
	Currency	INR	Euro	USD	INR	Euro	USD	INR	Euro	USD
1 person	₹538,941	€ 7,186	\$8,166	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2 person	₹334,787	€ 4,464	\$5,073	₹202,721	€ 2,703	\$3,072	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3 person	₹289,542	€ 3,861	\$4,387	₹196,844	€ 2,625	\$2,982	₹224,436	€ 2,992	\$3,401	
4 person	₹280,338	€ 3,738	\$4,248	₹185,340	€ 2,471	\$2,808	₹215,233	€ 2,870	\$3,261	
5 person	₹264,081	€ 3,521	\$4,001	₹165,018	€ 2,200	\$2,500	₹198,975	€ 2,653	\$3,015	
6 person	₹261,956	€ 3,493	\$3,969	₹162,362	€ 2,165	\$2,460	₹196,850	€ 2,625	\$2,983	
7 person	₹252,970	€ 3,373	\$3,833	₹151,129	€ 2,015	\$2,290	₹187,864	€ 2,505	\$2,846	
8 person	₹246,230	€ 3,283	\$3,731	₹142,705	€ 1,903	\$2,162	₹181,124	€ 2,415	\$2,744	
Child 5-11yrs	₹64,118			€ 855			\$971			
Child below 5yrs	Free									
H B supplement	₹34,250			€ 457			\$519			
Additional night in Mumbai	₹21,324	€ 284	\$323	₹11,765	€ 157	\$178	₹9,559	€ 127	\$145	



**Note: Euro & USD prices are subject to change in case of any fluctuation in currency exchange rate. Please check the currency exchange rate of the day for exact price in your currency. In any case our INR price will remain unchanged and shall be treated as final price.**

**Included in price:**

- Garland welcome and assistance at airport
- 14 Nights/ 15 Days accommodation in mentioned hotels or similar
- Daily breakfast at hotel.
- Bottled drinking water in car
- Private English speaking guide in each cities on sightseeing days.
- Private chauffer driven air-conditioned deluxe car for airport transfers, sightseeing & excursion as per program.
- 01 Time monument entrance fees mentioned in the itinerary.
- Ferry tickets to visit Elephanta Caves
- Applicable GST (Government taxes)

**Not Included in price:**

- Any air fare
- Camera charges at monuments
- Main Meals, Lunch or dinner unless mentioned
- Expenses of personal nature like liquor, laundry, tips, telephone, fax, internet etc.
- Or anything not mentioned above.

**Hotels used or similar in above price**

Day	City	3* Hotels	4* Hotels	5* Hotels
1	Mumbai	Hotel Suba Palace/ BW Hotel Sahil	Sun-N-Sand Hotel/ Fariyas Hotel	Trident Hotel/ ITC Grand Central
2	Mumbai	Hotel Suba Palace/ BW Hotel Sahil	Sun-N-Sand Hotel/ Fariyas Hotel	Trident Hotel/ ITC Grand Central
3	Alibaug	Elysium Spa Resort/ Hotel Sahyadri	The Fern Silvanus Resort/ Maple IVY	Radisson Blu Resort & Spa/ U Tropicana
4	Alibaug	Elysium Spa Resort/ Hotel Sahyadri	The Fern Silvanus Resort/ Maple IVY	Radisson Blu Resort & Spa/ U Tropicana
5	Ratnagiri	O'NEST Oceano Pearl -A Beach Home Stay/	Kohinoor Samudra Beach Resort	Kohinoor Samudra Beach Resort

		The MTDC Resort		
6	Goa	Varca Le Palm/ Lambana Resort	Lemon Tree Hotel Candolim/ The Chances Resort & Casino	Zuri Varca Goa White Sand Resort & Casino/ Alila Diwa Goa
7	Goa	Varca Le Palm/ Lambana Resort	Lemon Tree Hotel Candolim/ The Chances Resort & Casino	Zuri Varca Goa White Sand Resort & Casino/ Alila Diwa Goa
8	Goa	Varca Le Palm/ Lambana Resort	Lemon Tree Hotel Candolim/ The Chances Resort & Casino	Zuri Varca Goa White Sand Resort & Casino/ Alila Diwa Goa
9	Gokarna	Red Earth Gokarna/ Arthigamyia Resort & Spa	Kudle Beach View Resort & Spa/ Namaste Yoga Farm	SwaSwara/ Kahani Paradise
10	Mangalore	Resort River Roost Resorts/ Treebo Trend Pappilon Palace	The Ocean Pearl/ Goldfinch Mangalore	The Gateway Hotel Old Port Rd Mangalore
11	Kozhikode	Keys Hotel Malabar Gate/ Paramount Tower Hotel	Malabar Palace/ Copper Folia	The Raviz Calicut/ The Gateway Hotel Beach Road Calicut
12	Cochin	The Dune Hotel/ Abad Plaza	Casino Hotel/ The Avenue Regent	Xandari Harbour/ Le Meridien
13	Cochin	The Dune Hotel/ Abad Plaza	Casino Hotel/ The Avenue Regent	Xandari Harbour/ Le Meridien
14	Alleppey	ATDC Houseboat/ Dream Boats	ATDC Houseboat/ Dream Boats	Xandari Riverscapes/ Lakes & Lagoons/ Spice Route Premium
15	Departure			

### **Payment Policy:**

- Deposit of 25% of the package cost at the time of booking.
- Deposit of 50% of the package cost, 30 days prior to arrival date
- Deposit of 100% of the package cost, 7 days prior to arrival date

### **Cancellation policy:**

Note: Written cancellation will accept on all working days, except Sunday, Any cancellation sent on Sunday's will be considered on next working day (Monday).

For the X-mas and New Year period from 20 Dec to 05 Jan the payment is non-refundable.

In case you cancel the trip after commencement, refund would be restricted to a limited amount only which too would depend on the amount that we would be able to recover from the hoteliers/ contractors we patronize. For unused hotel accommodation, chartered transportation & missed meals etc. we do not bear any responsibility to refund.

- Cancellation before 30 days – no cancellation fees only bank charges.
- Cancellation before 29 -15 days – 25% of the invoice plus bank charges.
- Cancellation before 14 –7 days - 50% of the invoice plus bank charges.
- Cancellation before 6 – 3 days - 75% of the invoice plus bank charges.
- Cancellation before 2 days – Now show 90% of the invoice.

### **Our Liabilities & Limitations:**

Please note that after the finalization of the Tour/ service Cost, if there are any Hike in entrance fees of monuments / museums, Taxes, fuel cost or guide charges – by Govt of India, the same would be charged as extra.

Agora Voyages act only in the capacity of agent for the hotels, airlines, transporters, railways & contractors providing other services & all exchange orders, receipts, contracts & tickets issued by us are issued subject to terms & conditions under which these services are provided by them.

All itineraries are sample itineraries, intended to give you a general idea of the likely trip schedule. Numerous factors such as weather, road conditions, the physical ability of the participants etc. may dictate itinerary changes either before the tour or while on the trail. We reserve the right to change any schedule in the interest of the trip participants' safety, comfort & general well being.

Our rates are based on the prevailing rates as negotiated by us with the hotels, airlines etc. Hotels and Airlines retain the right to modify the rates without notice. In case of such changes the rates

quoted before the modification, can be changed by us according to the modifications by hotels or airlines. All hotel bookings are based on usual check in and check out time of the hotels until unless indicated in the itinerary.

We shall not be responsible for any delays & alterations in the program or expenses incurred – directly or indirectly – due to natural hazards, flight cancellations, accident, breakdown of machinery or equipment's, breakdown of transport, weather, sickness, landslides, political closures or any untoward incidents.

We shall not be responsible for any loss, injury or damage to person, property, or otherwise in connection with any accommodation, transportation or other services, resulting – directly or indirectly – from any act of GOD, dangers, fire, accident, breakdown in machinery or equipment, breakdown of transport, wars, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, pilferages, epidemics, medical or custom department regulations, defaults, or any other causes beyond our control.

We do not have any insurance policy covering the expenses for accident, sickness, loss due to theft, or any other reasons. Visitors are advised to seek such insurance arrangements in their home country. All baggage's & personal property/s at all times are at the client's risk.

We will not be responsible for any costs arising out of unforeseen circumstances like landslides, road blocks, bad weather, etc.

### **Tipping**

Tipping is not included in our price. Tipping is optional, and at times expected in travel trade. Obviously there is no limit to how much you can tip and some guests who enjoy and appreciate the services of Guides, driver and other crew will and have tipped much more than our average tipping guideline of about \$10-15 per day.

### **Trip Comments**

When you return from your trip, please share your experience with us. Any photos, suggestions will be appreciated. Although we try our best, Tourism is a trade, which cannot be perfect and there will always remain a room for improvement. Your comments (both criticism and compliments) are invaluable to us and we look forward to hearing from you, upon your return.