

Tour Name: Historic Caves, Fort Palaces, Temple & Backwater

Tour Duration: 18 Nights/ 19 Days

Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/w7ddxm6p>

Tour Overview

Embark on a captivating journey with Historic Caves, Fort Palaces, Temple & Backwater, where ancient monuments meet serene waterways. Begin in Mumbai, exploring the iconic Gateway of India and the Elephanta Caves before venturing to Aurangabad's Bibi Ka Maqbara and the Ajanta Caves. Travel through Hyderabad's historic forts and museums, then discover the architectural marvels of Gulbarga and Bijapur. Marvel at the ancient temples of Badami and the majestic ruins of Hampi. Conclude your odyssey with Kerala's lush landscapes, from Munnar's tea gardens to Thekkady's wildlife, and unwind on a houseboat cruise through the tranquil backwaters of Alleppey. This tour offers an unforgettable blend of historical grandeur and natural beauty.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Mumbai

- Welcome to Mumbai, the city of dreams! After you arrive at the airport, our representative will meet and greet you and transfer you to your hotel. Check-in and spend the rest of the day at leisure, exploring the bustling city on your own. Overnight stay in Mumbai.

Day 2: Mumbai city tour

- Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before embarking on a sightseeing tour of Mumbai.
- Visit the iconic Gateway of India and take a ferry to the Elephanta Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its rock-cut cave temples. The caves feature impressive sculptures and carvings dedicated to Hindu deities, particularly Lord Shiva.
- Return to Gateway of India and visit the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya museum, showcasing a vast collection of ancient artifacts and artworks, including sculptures, paintings, and decorative arts.
- See the Victorian architecture of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) and Parliament House, both impressive examples of colonial-era buildings with intricate facades and historical significance.

- Witness the unique Dhobi Ghat, an open-air laundromat where hundreds of washermen work daily, providing a fascinating glimpse into Mumbai's traditional laundry system.
- Drive past Marine Drive, also known as the Queen's Necklace, offering stunning views of the Arabian Sea and the city's skyline, especially beautiful at sunset.
- End the day with a visit to the bustling Crawford Market, a vibrant marketplace where you can experience local life and shop for fresh produce, spices, and a variety of goods.
- Overnight stay in Mumbai.

Day 3: Mumbai to Aurangabad (Flight)

- After breakfast, check out and head to the airport for a flight to Aurangabad.
- On arrival, check in at the hotel and proceed for a local sightseeing tour.
- Visit Bibi ka Maqbara, a stunning mausoleum often referred to as the "Taj of the Deccan," built by Prince Azam Shah in memory of his mother, showcasing Mughal architectural style.
- Explore Panchakki, an ancient water mill that displays the ingenuity of medieval Indian architecture, using water energy to grind grain.
- Discover the Aurangabad Caves, a group of rock-cut Buddhist caves with intricate carvings and sculptures, offering insights into the region's rich Buddhist heritage.
- Spend the evening exploring the local markets, known for their hand-woven Himroo and Paithani saris, traditional crafts that make excellent souvenirs.
- Overnight stay in Aurangabad.

Day 4: Aurangabad to Ajanta (104 km)

- Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before taking an excursion to Ajanta Caves.
- Marvel at the Ajanta Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage site featuring 30 rock-cut Buddhist caves adorned with beautiful paintings and sculptures. The caves depict the life of Buddha and various Jataka tales, showcasing exquisite artistry and devotion.
- Learn about the life of Buddha and the rich history of these caves, which date back to the 2nd century BCE, representing one of the finest examples of ancient Indian art.

- Return to Aurangabad in the evening for an overnight stay.

Day 5: Aurangabad to Hyderabad (Flight)

- After breakfast, check out and head to Ellora Caves, another UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Visit the remarkable Kailasa temple at Ellora, a massive monolithic rock excavation dedicated to Lord Shiva, known for its detailed carvings and architectural grandeur.
- Explore the Grishneshwar Temple, one of the 12 Jyotirlinga shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva, attracting pilgrims from across the country.
- Tour the historic Daulatabad Fort, known for its impressive defensive structures, strategic location, and panoramic views of the surrounding landscape.
- Head to the airport for a flight to Hyderabad. On arrival, check in at the hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure.
- Overnight stay in Hyderabad.

Day 6: Hyderabad city tour

- Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before embarking on a full-day city tour of Hyderabad.
- Visit the iconic Golconda Fort, a majestic fortress known for its acoustic system, grand architecture, and stunning views of the city.
- Explore the Qutub Shahi Tombs, the royal necropolis of the Qutub Shahi dynasty, featuring impressive domed structures and beautifully landscaped gardens.
- Marvel at the Charminar, a historic monument and mosque that symbolizes Hyderabad, with its four grand arches and bustling bazaars.
- Tour the Salar Jung Museum, housing a vast collection of art, antiques, and artifacts from around the world, including rare manuscripts, sculptures, and decorative arts.
- Visit the Chowmahalla Palace, a former royal residence showcasing the grandeur of the Nizams, with its opulent halls, courtyards, and gardens.
- End the day with a visit to Birla Mandir, a beautiful temple built on a hillock, offering panoramic views of the city and dedicated to Lord Venkateshwara.
- Drive past Hussain Sagar Lake, known for its large Buddha statue standing on Gibraltar Rock in the middle of the lake, illuminated beautifully at night.

- Overnight stay in Hyderabad.

Day 7: Hyderabad to Gulbarga (230 km)

- After breakfast, check out and drive to Gulbarga.
- En route, visit the Bidar Fort, a massive fortification with intricate architecture, including mosques, palaces, and gardens, reflecting the grandeur of the Bahmani Sultanate.
- Explore the Bahmani Tombs, a group of impressive mausoleums built for the Bahmani rulers, showcasing Persian architectural influences and beautiful ornamentation.
- On arrival in Gulbarga, check in at the hotel and spend the rest of the day at leisure.
- Overnight stay in Gulbarga.

Day 8: Gulbarga to Bijapur (170 km)

- Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before checking out and exploring Gulbarga.
- Visit the Gulbarga Fort, a historic structure housing ancient mosque, tombs, and an impressive citadel, offering a glimpse into the region's medieval history.
- See the Jama Masjid, one of the oldest mosques in South India with a unique architectural style, featuring a large dome and intricate mihrab.
- Pay respects at the Sharana Basaveshwara Temple, dedicated to the 12th-century philosopher and statesman Basava, known for its spiritual significance and annual fair.
- Visit the Tomb of Sufi mystic Khwaja Bande Nawaz, an important pilgrimage site for followers of the Sufi faith, with its serene atmosphere and beautiful surroundings.
- Drive to Bijapur and check in at the hotel. Spend the rest of the day at leisure.
- Overnight stay in Bijapur.

Day 9: Bijapur to Badami (120 km)

- Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before exploring Bijapur.
- Visit Bijapur Fort, known for its impressive defensive structures and historical significance, including the magnificent gate and bastions.
- Explore Asar Mahal, a beautiful palace built by Muhammad Adil Shah with a tranquil garden and water tank, once used as a royal audience hall.

- See Bara Kaman, an unfinished mausoleum with an intriguing architectural design, featuring a series of arched structures.
- Marvel at Gol Gumbaz, the mausoleum of Muhammad Adil Shah, famous for its massive dome and whispering gallery, where even the faintest sound is echoed multiple times.
- Visit Jama Masjid, one of the largest mosques in India with a grand prayer hall and expansive courtyard, known for its simplicity and elegance.
- Discover Malik-e-Maidan, a giant medieval cannon with a fascinating history, considered one of the largest cannons of its time.
- See Mehtar Mahal, an exquisite gateway with intricate carvings and Islamic architectural features, serving as the entrance to the royal palace.
- Visit Ibrahims Rouza, a stunning mausoleum complex known for its beautiful gardens and intricate architecture, built for Ibrahim Adil Shah II and his queen.
- Drive to Badami, check in at the hotel, and spend the night there.

Day 10: Badami

- Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before exploring the historical sites of Badami.
- Visit Aihole, an ancient temple town with over 125 temples showcasing early Chalukyan architecture, including the Durga Temple and Lad Khan Temple.
- Explore Pattadakal, a UNESCO World Heritage site with a collection of beautifully carved temples and monuments, such as the Virupaksha Temple and Mallikarjuna Temple, reflecting a unique blend of Dravidian and Nagara styles.
- Discover the Badami Cave temples, four rock-cut temples with intricate carvings and beautiful sculptures, dedicated to Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist deities.
- Visit Badami Fort, a historic fortification with stunning views of the surrounding landscape, accessible by a climb through rugged terrain.
- See Agastya Lake, a serene body of water surrounded by red sandstone cliffs and temples, providing a picturesque setting and a place for reflection.
- Spend the night at the hotel.

Day 11: Badami to Hampi (180 km)

- Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before driving to Hampi.

- En route, visit Gadag and Lakkundi to see the unique blend of ancient Hindu and Jain temples and medieval architecture, including the Trikuteshwara Temple in Gadag and the Brahma Jinalaya in Lakkundi.
- Upon arrival in Hampi, check in at the hotel and spend the night there.

Day 12: Hampi

- Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before exploring the ruins of Hampi.
- Visit Hazara Rama Temple, known for its intricate carvings depicting scenes from the Ramayana, a significant temple in the royal enclosure.
- See the King's Balance, a historic monument where kings were weighed against gold and precious stones, showcasing the grandeur of the Vijayanagara Empire.
- Explore the Mahanavami Dibba, a grand platform used for royal ceremonies and festivals, offering panoramic views of the surrounding ruins.
- Discover the Royal enclosures, including the King's Palace, Queen's Bath, and the public audience hall, reflecting the opulence of the Vijayanagara kings.
- Marvel at the Statue of Ugra Narasimha Temple, an imposing monolithic sculpture of Lord Narasimha, a fierce avatar of Lord Vishnu.
- Visit Virupaksha Temple, an ancient temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, known for its towering gopuram and vibrant annual festivals.
- Explore the Vithala Temple Complex, famous for its stone chariot and musical pillars that produce melodic sounds when struck.
- See Lotus Mahal, a beautiful palace with a unique blend of Hindu and Islamic architectural styles, used as a social and recreational center.
- Visit the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) Museum, housing a collection of artifacts, sculptures, and inscriptions from the Vijayanagara Empire.
- Spend the night at the hotel.

Day 13: Hampi to Cochin (Flight)

- Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before transferring to Hubli airport for a flight to Cochin.
- Upon arrival, check in at the hotel and spend the night there.

Day 14: Cochin to Munnar (140 km)

- Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before exploring Cochin's charming seaside area.
- Visit Fort Cochin, known for its colonial architecture and Chinese fishing nets, providing a picturesque setting along the waterfront.
- See St. Francis Church, the oldest European church in India and the original burial site of explorer Vasco da Gama.
- Explore the Jewish Synagogue, one of the oldest active synagogues in the Commonwealth, adorned with beautiful Belgian chandeliers and hand-painted Chinese tiles.
- Visit Mattancherry Dutch Palace, featuring murals depicting scenes from the Ramayana and portraits of Cochin's former rulers.
- Later, drive to Munnar and check in at the hotel.
- Overnight at the hotel.

Day 15: Munnar

- Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before exploring Munnar.
- Visit Pothamedu, a picturesque area known for its tea, coffee, and cardamom plantations, offering stunning views of the lush green landscape.
- Explore the Mattupetty Dam and Reservoir, known for its water storage and hydroelectric projects, as well as its scenic surroundings.
- Take a trip to Rajamala hill station in Eravikulam National Park, home to the endangered Nilgiri tahr, a rare mountain goat species.
- Visit Mattupetty Dairy Farm, known for its high-yielding cattle, and learn about the dairy farming process.
- Discover Echo Point, a scenic spot where the natural echo phenomenon occurs, offering beautiful views and a pleasant environment.
- Visit the Tea Museum to learn about the history of tea production in the region and see the various stages of tea processing.
- Spend the night at the hotel.

Day 16: Munnar to Thekkady (110 km)

- Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before driving to Thekkady via Ramakkalmedu.
- Stop at Frog Rock, a unique rock formation resembling a frog, offering a great photo opportunity and scenic views.
- See Turtle Rock, another interesting natural rock formation, adding to the unique geological features of the region.
- Visit the Kuravan & Kurathi twin-statue, a tribute to the tribals who played a significant role in the construction of the Idukki Dam, providing a cultural and historical context.
- In the evening, watch a Martial Arts & Kathakali Dance show, a traditional art form of Kerala that tells stories through dance and music, offering a glimpse into the local culture.
- Overnight stay at the hotel in Thekkady.

Day 17: Thekkady to Kumarakom (140 km)

- Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before embarking on a boat safari at the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Enjoy the serene boat ride and spot wildlife such as elephants, bison, deer, and a variety of birds, providing a unique wildlife experience in their natural habitat.
- After the safari, take a tour of a spice plantation to learn about the cultivation of spices like cardamom, pepper, and vanilla, and pick up some fragrant spices at the local market.
- Later, drive to Kumarakom and check in at the hotel.
- Overnight stay at the hotel in Kumarakom.

Day 18: Kumarakom to Alleppey

- Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before transferring to the Alleppey boat jetty.
- Board a houseboat for a relaxing cruise through the backwaters, enjoying the sights of palm-fringed narrow canals, tiny hamlets, and lush green landscapes.

- Experience farming below sea level in one of the few areas in the world where this unique practice is carried out, providing a glimpse into the innovative agricultural techniques of the region.
- Witness the daily life of the locals, including traditional fishing methods, coir making, and local markets, offering an immersive cultural experience.
- Enjoy the sunset from the sun-deck of the houseboat, providing a tranquil and picturesque end to the day.
- Spend the night on the houseboat.

Day 19: Alleppey to Cochin (60 km)

- Start the day with breakfast on the houseboat before disembarking and driving to Cochin for your departure transfer to the airport.
- If time permits, explore the city and visit popular attractions like Fort Cochin, St. Francis Church, and the Jewish Synagogue, allowing you to see more of Cochin's rich history and culture.
- Depart for your onward journey with fond memories of your Kerala trip, taking with you the unique experiences and beautiful sights you have encountered throughout the tour.

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Package Price (USD Per Person Sharing Double/Twin Room)**Valid for Travel: 01 October 2026 – 15 April 2027**

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	5,827	3,155	2,733	2,811	2,514	2,454	2,292	2,171
4★ Deluxe	6,933	3,686	3,264	3,342	3,045	2,985	2,823	2,702
5★ Luxury	9,311	5,182	4,477	4,555	4,258	4,198	4,036	3,915

Valid for Travel: 16 April 2027 to 20 September 2027

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	5,644	3,014	2,593	2,671	2,373	2,313	2,152	2,030
4★ Deluxe	6,273	3,355	2,934	3,012	2,714	2,654	2,493	2,372
5★ Luxury	8,165	4,596	3,891	3,969	3,671	3,611	3,450	3,329

Single Room Supplement

3★ Standard: USD 841 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 1,417 | 5★ Luxury: USD 2,581

Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)

3★ Standard: USD 102 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 193 | 5★ Luxury: USD 411

Price Includes:

- Assistance on arrival at airport.
- 18 Nights' accommodation in selected price category hotels.
- Daily breakfast at hotels.
- Private AC car/van for airport transfers, sightseeing, and excursions as per the program.
- English speaking tour guide on sightseeing days (local guide in each city), as per program.
- Monument entrances and activities charges mentioned in the itinerary.
- Bottled drinking water in car.
- Government taxes.

Price Does Not Include:

- Any flight tickets.
- Camera charges at monuments if any.
- Meals other than mentioned in the inclusions.
- Expenses of personal nature like liquor, laundry, tips, telephone, fax, internet etc.
- Gratuities and optional activities.
- Anything not mentioned in inclusions.

Hotels used or similar for 18 nights' accommodation

3 Star Hotels

- Mumbai x 2 nights: Hotel Godwin, Colaba/ Hotel Suba Palace
- Aurangabad x 2 nights: The Fern Residency/ Amarpreet Hotel
- Hyderabad x 2 nights: Hotel Abode/ Aditya Park
- Gulbarga x 1 night: Kyriad Hotel Gulbarga by OTHPL/ Mastiff Select
- Bijapur x 1 night: The Fern Residency/ Kyriad Hotel Vijayapura by OTHPL
- Badami x 2 nights: Badami Court/ Clarks Inn
- Hampi x 2 nights: Malligi Hotel/ Clarks Inn
- Cochin x 1 night: The Tower House/ The Killians
- Munnar x 2 nights: Abad Copper Castle/ Elysium Garden Hill Resort
- Thekkady x 1 night: Abad Green Forest/ Hotel Treetop
- Kumarakom x 1 night: Eastend Lake Song/ Abad Whispering Palm
- Alleppey x 1 night: Deluxe Houseboat (AC During Night Only)

4 Star Hotels

- Mumbai x 2 nights: Fariyas Hotel/ The Gordon House
- Aurangabad x 2 nights: Lemon Tree Hotel

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- Hyderabad x 2 nights: The Golkonda Hotel/ Lemon Tree Hotel
- Gulbarga x 1 night: Kyriad Hotel Gulbarga by OTHPL/ Mastiff Select
- Bijapur x 1 night: The Fern Residency/ Kyriad Hotel Vijayapura by OTHPL
- Badami x 2 nights: Morpho Banashree Resort/ WADA1
- Hampi x 2 nights: Heritage Resort/ Royal Orchid Central Keerti
- Cochin x 1 night: Casino Hotel/ Le Maritime
- Munnar x 2 nights: Elixir Hills Resort/ Tea County Munnar
- Thekkady x 1 night: Amritara Shalimar Spice Garden/ The Elephant Court
- Kumarakom x 1 night: Gokulam Grand Resort & Spa/ Rhythm Kumarakom
- Alleppey x 1 night: Premium Houseboat (Full Time AC)

5 Star Hotels

- Mumbai x 2 nights: Trident Hotel/ President, Mumbai - IHCL SeleQtions
- Aurangabad x 2 nights: WelcomHotel Rama International/ Vivanta Aurangabad
- Hyderabad x 2 nights: ITC Kakatiya, a Luxury Collection/ Trident Hotel
- Gulbarga x 1 night: Kyriad Hotel Gulbarga by OTHPL/ Mastiff Select
- Bijapur x 1 night: The Fern Residency/ Kyriad Hotel Vijayapura by OTHPL
- Badami x 2 nights: Morpho Banashree Resort/ WADA1
- Hampi x 2 nights: Evolve Back, Hampi
- Cochin x 1 night: Kochi Marriott Hotel/ Xandari Harbour
- Munnar x 2 nights: Chandys Windy Woods/ Blanket Hotel & Spa
- Thekkady x 1 night: Spice Village/ Hills & Hues
- Kumarakom x 1 night: Coconut Lagoon/ The Zuri
- Alleppey x 1 night: Luxury Houseboat (Full Time AC)

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, 10 days prior to arrival date

Cancellation policy:

- Note: Written cancellation will be accepted on all working days, except Sundays. Any cancellation sent on Sundays will be considered on the next working day (Monday).
- X-mas and New Year Period (20 Dec to 05 Jan): The payment is non-refundable during this period.
- After Trip Commencement: If you cancel the trip after it has commenced, the refund will be limited to the amount we are able to recover from hoteliers/contractors. We are not responsible for refunds on unused hotel accommodations, chartered transportation, or missed meals.
- 61 days or more before the tour: No cancellation charges.
- Between 60 to 30 days before the tour: Cancellation charges equal to 20% of the full tour booking value.
- Between 30 to 15 days before the tour: Cancellation charges equal to 50% of the full tour booking value.
- Within 5 days before the tour or no show: Cancellation charges equal to 90% of the full tour booking value.

Our Liabilities & Limitations:

- Price Changes: After the finalization of the tour/service cost, if there are any hikes in entrance fees, taxes, fuel costs, or guide charges by the Government of India, these will be charged as extra.
- Role as Agent: Agora Voyages acts only as an agent for hotels, airlines, transporters, railways, and contractors providing services. All receipts, contracts, and tickets issued by us are subject to terms and conditions of the service providers.
- Itinerary Changes: All itineraries are sample itineraries intended to provide a general idea. We reserve the right to change the schedule based on factors such as weather, road conditions, or the physical ability of participants to ensure safety, comfort, and well-being.

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- **Rate Modifications:** Our rates are based on negotiated rates with hotels and airlines. If the rates are modified by these service providers, we reserve the right to adjust the quoted rates accordingly. Hotel bookings are based on usual check-in and check-out times, unless otherwise indicated.
- **Liability Disclaimer:** We are not responsible for delays, alterations, or expenses incurred due to natural hazards, flight cancellations, accidents, weather, sickness, political closures, or any unforeseen incidents.
- **Damage, Loss, or Injury:** We are not responsible for any loss, injury, or damage to persons, property, or otherwise, caused by acts of God, fire, accidents, machinery breakdowns, political disturbances, theft, epidemics, or other factors beyond our control.
- **Insurance:** We do not offer insurance for accidents, sickness, theft, or other unforeseen circumstances. We recommend travelers arrange for insurance in their home country. All personal property and baggage are at the client's risk at all times.
- **Unforeseen Circumstances:** We are not responsible for costs arising from landslides, roadblocks, bad weather, or similar unforeseen circumstances.

Tipping

- Tipping is not included in our price. It is optional but often expected in the travel industry. There is no limit on the amount you can tip, though the average guideline is around \$10-15 per day for guides, drivers, and other crew members.

Trip Comments

- After your trip, we would love to hear your experience. Any photos, suggestions, or feedback will be greatly appreciated. While we strive to make every trip perfect, we acknowledge that there is always room for improvement. Your comments, whether positive or constructive, are invaluable to us.