

---

# DECCAN ODYSSEY

## “MAHARASHTRA SPLENDOUR”

---



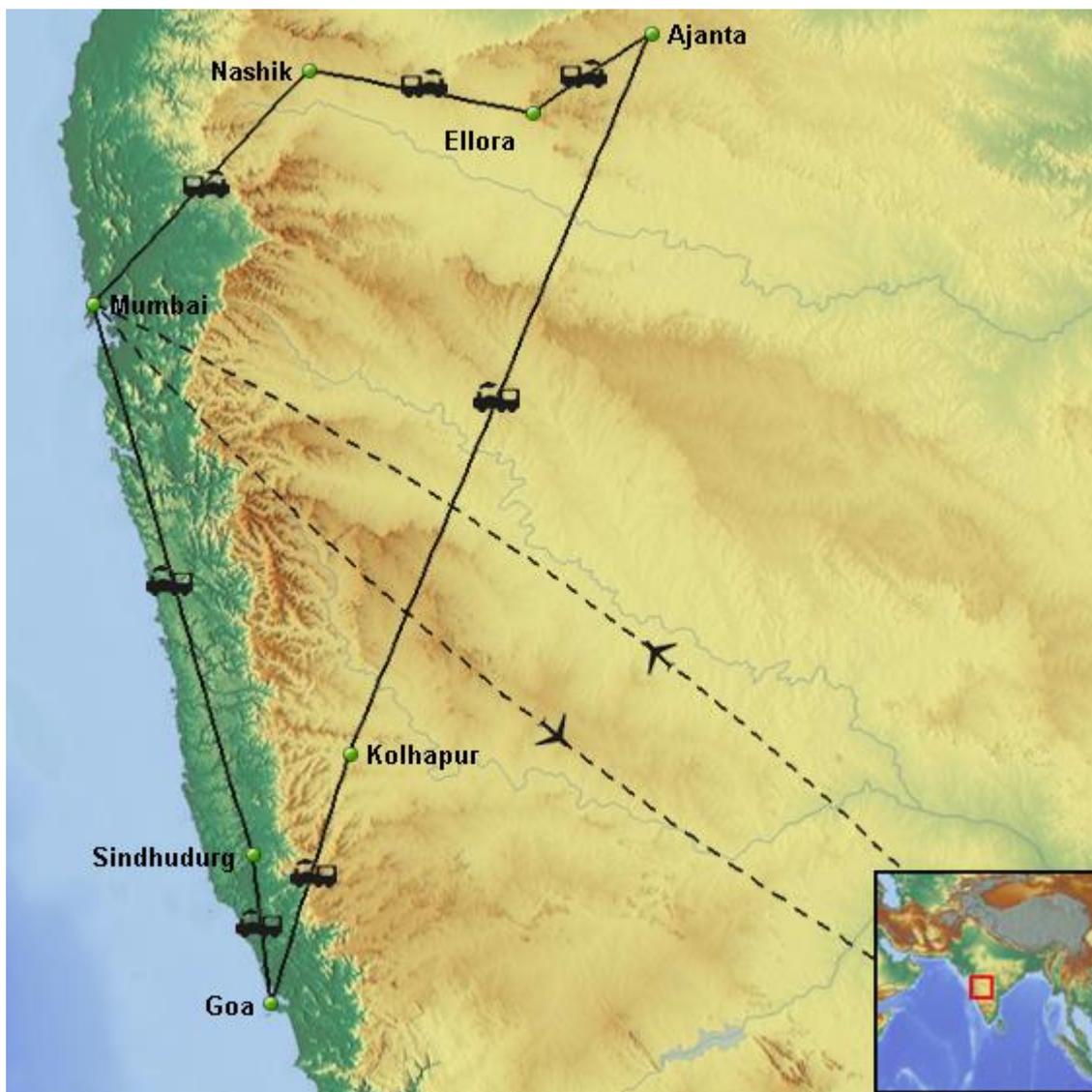
*Over a billion people, several hundred dialects, 29 states, and a cultural diversity that baffles the mind and cannot be put in words...Each of India's states - and the uncountable villages within- has a distinct history, cultural markers and allure. It is a land of a thousand untold stories.*



*Between destinations... journey within and without...*

## ROUTE MAP

Route: Mumbai - Nashik - Ellora Caves - Ajanta Caves - Kolhapur - Goa - Sindhudurg - Mumbai





*Between destinations... journey within and without...*

## ITINERARY

### **DAY 1: MUMBAI BY FLIGHT**

Arrive at Mumbai. You will be met and assisted by a Secrets of India's representative who shall handover your travel documents and transfer you to train station to complete the check-in formalities.

Early this evening, assemble at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus at approximately 1530 hours to complete the registration process and check in formalities for your *Maharashtra Splendor* 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 Nashik.

**Overnight: Train**  
**Meals Included: Dinner**

### **DAY 2: NASHIK BY TRAIN**

Deccan Odyssey reaches the holy city of Nashik this morning. Munch your breakfast onboard and then disembark to enjoy a stroll along the Godavari Ghats. Observe different Hindu rituals being performed at the Ghat.

Further, walk through the market set by the Ghats. Right from vegetables to cow dung cakes, lentils to dried seafood, everything is sold in the market.

Later, drive towards Grover Zampa vineyards and take a tour into the one of the finest Indian wine producing vineyards. Have a look at the vines lined up with Chenin, Chardonnay and Shiraz grapes. The tour gives you an insight of the ancient methods- 'méthode traditionnelle' that are still used for preparing the best sparkling wines in India. The sommelier at the vineyard will serve you from the finest collections of white, red, rose and sparkling wines. Pair your favorite wine with some delicious food.

After enjoying your lunch, get back to the Deccan Odyssey. Deccan Odyssey leaves for Aurangabad.

Dinner on board

**Overnight: Train**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner**

### **DAY 3: ELLORA CAVES BY TRAIN**

As you enjoy breakfast, the Deccan Odyssey arrives at Aurangabad, from where a scenic drive takes you to the Ellora Caves, carved into the side of a basaltic hill 30 km from the city.



*Between destinations... journey within and without...*

The finest specimen of cave-temple architecture in India, the site encompasses 34 rock-cut shrines representing Buddhist, Jain and Hindu art dating from the 4th to 5th century AD. The 12 caves to the south are Buddhist, the 17 in the centre Hindu, and the 5 caves to the north are Jain. The most remarkable is the Kailash temple, meant to be a replica of Shiva's celestial abode on Mt. Kailash. It is the best example of rock cut architecture and an engineering marvel.

Visit the exceptional Ellora Caves, a World Heritage site. The city itself has deep Mughal influences and there are several monuments of note here; the Daulatabad Fort, Bibi-ka-Makbara and the city's 52 gates, each with its own history, amongst them.

Return to the Deccan Odyssey for dinner

**Overnight:** Train  
**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

**DAY 4: AJANTA CAVES BY TRAIN**

The Deccan Odyssey arrives at the Jalgaon station this morning from where, after breakfast on board, you will disembark and drive to the Ajanta Caves, another World Heritage site and an architectural marvel of its time. The 30 rock-hewn Buddhist caves at Ajanta have been masterfully carved and are adorned with sculptures and paintings of Buddhist religious art, depicting universal pictorial art and are known to depict the fusion between Buddhist and Hindu faith.

Lunch will be on board the Deccan Odyssey.

Post lunch, you will disembark once more to visit a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi considered to be one of the most important thought leaders of not just India but the World. One can learn a lot from visiting the Gandhi Teerth which pays ode to the man who quoted "My religion is based on truth and non-violence. Truth is my God, Non-violence is the means of realizing Him."

In the evening watch the tapestry of rural India unfold as you sip a sun downer.

**Overnight:** Train  
**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

**DAY 5: KOLHAPUR BY TRAIN**

Have a look at the surroundings of Maharashtra as the Deccan Odyssey rolls into the city of Kolhapur.

Relish breakfast onboard and spend some time at leisure. Disembark for a city tour of Kolhapur after having your lunch onboard.

Pay a visit to the New Palace Museum, a beautiful octagonal Palace that dates back to the 19th century.

Flip back the pages of Kolhapur's history with the architecture of the palace. Visit the Town Hall Museum, which is a somber neo-Gothic building.



*Between destinations... journey within and without...*

Go for some shopping at the local market of Kolhapur. Buy yourself a pair of beautifully handcrafted Kolhapuri chappals, the main attraction of the city.

Leave for your special venue where you will be served tea.

Enjoy Lavanya Sandhya, a folk performance. Seek blessings at Mahalakshmi temple, 1300 year old temple, also known as Shakti Pethas.

The temple is dedicated to Goddess Shakti, the consort of Lord Vishnu. Post this, witness a traditional martial arts performance called 'Mardani Khel'.

Return back to the Deccan Odyssey for dinner. The Deccan Odyssey departs for India's party capital, Goa.

**Overnight: Train**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner**

## DAY 6:

## GOA

## BY TRAIN

This morning the Deccan Odyssey rolls into Goa, Goa is a paradise of virgin beaches, fun loving people, mouth-watering delicious cuisine, pretty whitewashed chapels and churches that dot the landscape, and sleepy little villages among the rice fields. In 1510, the Portuguese conquered Goa, and they have left behind traces of culture and customs that mingle with the Goan coastal peoples' simple lifestyles, to create the quintessential Goan way of life.

Goa is known for its Gothic churches, crumbling forts, palm-fringed beaches, coconut groves, ferry rides, bubbly folk music... and the famous afternoon siesta! The largest of the churches in Goa, the Se Cathedral is in Old Goa and is flocked by thousands of tourists every year. The holy shrine of Basilica of Bom Jesus, also in Old Goa, houses the mortal remains of St. Francis Xavier. It is a famous pilgrimage center among the Roman Catholic world.

Have your breakfast and then get down and begin with Goa's sightseeing tour.

Today, enjoy a half-day historical tour of North Goa. Visit the Church of Basilica Bom Jesus. This contains the tomb and mortal remains of St Francis Xavier who was on a mission to spread Christianity in the Portuguese colonies of the East. Visit the Church of St. Cajetan, built by Italian friars who were sent to the kingdom of Golconda to preach Christianity. The Church of St. Francis of Assisi has carved woodwork and old murals depicting the life of St Francis. The Se Cathedral is the largest of the churches in Old Goa built in the Portuguese-Gothic style with a Tuscan exterior and Corinthian interior. Also visit St. Monica, Goa's only convent for nuns. Located here is the Museum of Christian Art, showcasing the richness of Indo-Portuguese Christian Art from Goa. Later, enjoy a leisurely walk through Fontainhas, Goa's Latin Quarter, home to the last surviving Portuguese families of Goa. There are a number of designer boutiques where you can shop for Portuguese crockery, glassware, art and clothing.

Once again, return back to the Deccan Odyssey for dinner as it rolls towards its ultimate destination – Sindhudurg.

**Overnight: Train**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner**



*Between destinations... journey within and without...*

**DAY 7:**

**Sindhudurg**

**BY TRAIN**

Arrive in Sindhudurg which lies on a rocky island just off the cost of Malvan.

After having your breakfast onboard, disembark and leave for Sindhudurg's Pinguli village and Sawantwadi Palace is on the cards today.

Get a glimpse of the traditional Thakar folk arts and crafts at the local museum, and then head towards the Sawantwadi Palace for a delicious luncheon.

Get back to the Deccan Odyssey. Relax for some time. Rest of the day is for leisure activities.

Savor dinner on board as the Deccan Odyssey heads back to Mumbai.

**Overnight:** Train  
**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

**DAY 8:**

**MUMBAI**

**BY TRAIN**

Early this morning, after breakfast, you will disembark at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Railway Station, Mumbai.

Bid farewell to the Deccan Odyssey as your royal passage through the grand vistas of India comes to an end.

**Meals Included:** Breakfast

*Please note venue of meals & timings of sightseeing's would be subject to change as per Indian railways norms.*



*Between destinations... journey within and without...*

### **Departure Dates**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Dates</b>	
October 2016	01	N/A
November 2016	05	26
December 2016	24	31
January 2017	21	N/A
February 2017	11	25
March 2017	18	N/A
April 2017	15	29
September 2017	23	N/A

**Rates are available on request from Guidepost Rail Tours  
valid from Oct 2016 till Sep 2017**

### **Inclusions**

- Accommodation in Deluxe cabin/Presidential suite with attached bath
- All meals including tea, coffee and mineral water
- Transport for sightseeing in deluxe coaches
- Monument entry fee to all palaces, museums & parks
- Still camera fees
- Service tax of 4.50%

### **Notes**

- 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 the 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, we recommend the presidential suite which has a double bed in the bedroom and can be shared with 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 2<sup>nd</sup> child will have to pay 50% of the adult fare. One of the parents will have to be present with the child/children