

OSKAR'S GUIDE

SOUTH INDIA TOUR
AND EXTRAS

JANUARY 2014

Specially prepared for Oskar Radosław Crick,
second grandson of the author, Robert Gordon Crick

On the occasion of his first overseas venture to the subcontinent of India

Like many explorers, adventurers, treasure-seekers and conquerors before him, Oskar will be retracing their steps, learning of their experiences and accomplishments; but, more importantly, immersing himself in a totally new world that has its own unique history, culture and traditions.

Hopefully, armed with these notes, motivated by wanting to discover new horizons and empowered by his own initiative and curiosity, he will return with a store of knowledge and experiences that will help define his future.

Canberra and Gundaroo, January 2014

With due acknowledgement to a myriad of websites whose copyrights I have probably breached.
Thanks especially to Wikipedia.

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AN INTRODUCTION TO INDIA

Oskar, you are about to visit possibly the most exciting, different, scary and wonderful place you might ever visit in your life.

It's called India.

India is part of Asia. It's often referred to as the Subcontinent because of its shape projecting deep into the Indian Ocean from the Asia Continent, with the Bay of Bengal to its east and the Arabian Sea to its west (check out the map).

You'll be following the lines in the picture opposite: red=plane; blue=motorbike; orange=train.

The Indian Subcontinent is very ancient. Evidence of human life goes back more than 30,000 years. Stone Age settlements date back to about 7000BC. These settlements gradually developed into the Indus Valley Civilisation centred along the Indus River (see top left hand side of picture). This civilisation flourished from about 2500BC to 1900BC. It was the very first town-based culture in South Asia.

There are lots of interesting archaeological finds and displays about this in the National Museum in Delhi.

The descendents of this civilisation later migrated south and east. At much the same time, other civilisation from the north and west migrated into the subcontinent; and by about 1000BC to 500BC, many different cultures had settled there.



From this time on, many separate "states" emerged, which, in turn, led to lots of disputes about boundaries and ownership of resources. Eventually, larger groups were formed, which evolved into the early dynasties that brought some form of order. The most famous of these dynasties was the Mauryan (pronounced *More-ree-in*) Dynasty (322-185BC), which ended up controlling the entire subcontinent, becoming one of the largest empires in the world and the largest ever on the Indian subcontinent. Its greatest emperor was Ashoka who ruled the empire from 269-232BC. He is still much

revered.

There are documents indicating that between 200BC and 200AD, the southern peninsula was being ruled by the Cheras, the Cholas, and the Pandyas, dynasties that traded with the Roman Empire. In South India, we will come across a lot of things that these dynasties left behind.

By 300AD, the Gupta Dynasty had unified northern India and set up a governing system that became a model for later Indian kingdoms.

After the 10th century, Muslim Central Asian nomadic clans, using swift-horse cavalry and raising vast armies frequently overran the north-western plains, leading eventually to the establishment of the Islamic Delhi Sultanate in 1206. The sultanate was to control much of North India, and to make many forays into South India.

In the early 16th century, northern India, being then under mainly Muslim rulers, fell again to the superior mobility and firepower of a new generation of Central Asian warriors, who established the Mughal Empire.

Later, with the arrival of European traders and then settlements; and the weakening of the Mughal Empire, the British colonised and ruled the subcontinent as British India.

It took many more years and the actions of Mahatma Gandhi for India to achieve independence and become the nation it is today.

AN IMPRESSION OF INDIA

The famous American author, Mark Twain, who wrote *Huckleberry Finn* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, visited India as part of world trip he undertook in 1897.

He wrote this in his scrapbook at the time:

This is indeed India; the land of dreams and romance, of fabulous wealth and fabulous poverty, of splendour and rags, of palaces and hovels, of famine and pestilence, the country of a thousand nations and a hundred tongues, of a thousand religions and two million gods, cradle of the human race, birthplace of human speech, mother of history, grandmother of legend, great-grandmother of tradition. Our most valuable and most instructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India."—*Mark Twain, Following the Equator, 1897*

Mark Twain preferred travelling in India by train. He wrote:

In other countries a long wait at the train station is a dull thing and tedious, but one has no right to have that feeling in India. You have the monster crowd of bejewelled natives, the stir, the bustle, the confusion, the shifting splendours of costumes. Dear me, the delight of it, the charm of it are beyond speech." -*Mark Twain.*

STATES OF INDIA

Like Australia, India has a federal system of government. That means it has a central government based in New Delhi that undertakes specific functions – as does our Canberra based government; and state governments that have their functions – as do our state governments, such as New South Wales, etc.

On our trip to India, we will visit several states. In the south of India on the motorbike segment, we will visit Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Goa.

On our train trip to Mumbai we visit Maharashtra.

Delhi, like Canberra, is located within its own national capital territory.

Agra is in the state of Uttar Pradesh



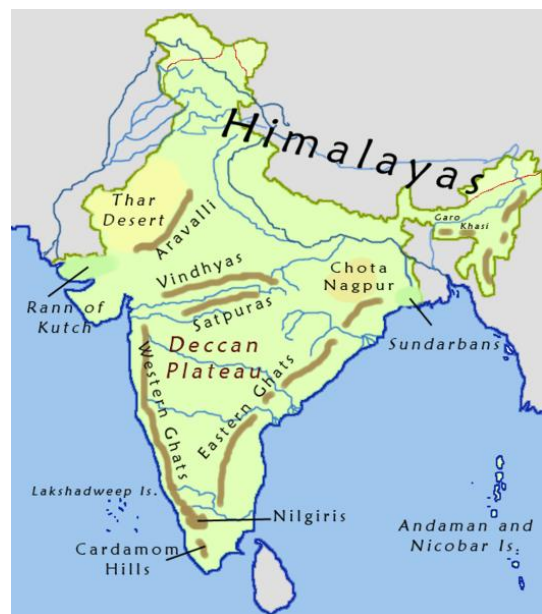
WESTERN GHATS

The Western Ghats are a mountain range along the western side of India. It is sometimes called the Great Escarpment of India.

The range runs north to south along the western edge of the Deccan Plateau and separates the plateau from a narrow coastal plain along the Arabian Sea.

The range starts north of Mumbai and runs approximately 1,600 km through the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala ending at the southern tip of India.

The area is particularly noted for its wide diversity of plants, mammals and birds, with many threatened species. There are several national parks to protect them. A large one where we will spend two nights is called Mudumalai National Park.



The Western Ghats are home to famous hill stations¹ including Ooty, Munnar and Kodaikanal, which we will visit.

KOCHI

History

Kochi (called Cochin in colonial times) was referred to as the *Queen of the Arabian Sea*.

Kochi was an important spice trading centre on the Arabian Sea for many centuries; and was visited by the Romans, Ancient Greeks, Jews and Arabs; and Chinese ships.

It was occupied by the Portuguese Empire in 1503. Kochi was the first European colony in India. It remained the main seat of Portuguese India until 1530, when Goa was chosen instead. Kochi was later occupied by the Dutch and the British. After that, the Kingdom of Cochin became a princely state.²

Highlights

We only have a day here, during which we need to try out the bikes. We might just make a visit to an area of the city called Fort Kochin. It seems to be a groovy area of beach, buildings and places to hang-out.

This section of the city was called Fort Kochi after it was given to the Portuguese in the year 1503 by the Raja of Kochi. The Raja gave the Portuguese permission to build a fort near the waterfront to protect their commercial interests. The fort that the Portuguese built was named Fort Emmanuel. It was later destroyed by the Dutch. It was behind Fort Emmanuel that the Portuguese built their settlement and a wooden church, which was rebuilt in the year 1516 as a permanent structure. This is the world famous St Francis Church.



Some interesting features of Fort Kochi are:

- The Chinese fishing nets. In India, Chinese fishing nets (Cheena vala) are fishing nets that are fixed land installations for fishing. While commonly known as "Chinese fishing nets" in India, the more formal name for such nets is "shore operated lift nets".
- St. Francis Church, originally built in 1503, is the oldest European church in India and has great historical significance. The Portuguese explorer, Vasco da Gama, died in Kochi in 1524 when

¹ Hill Stations are towns at much higher elevations than the surrounding plains. The term is mainly used to refer to such places built by colonial powers (the British in the case of India) to provide cooler places to stay during the hot summer months.

² A *princely state* was a territory in British controlled India that was allowed some independence with its own ruler (the prince), but still under the final control of Britain.

he was on his third visit to India. His body was originally buried in this church, but after fourteen years his remains were removed to Lisbon.

- The Santa Cruz Cathedral Basilica is one of the eight Basilicas in India. Counted as one of the heritage edifices of Kerala, this church is one of the finest and impressive churches in India and visited by tourists the whole year round.

MUNNAR



Munnar is a hill station in the State of Kerala. It was the summer resort of the British. A hill station is a town located at a higher elevation than the nearby plain or valley. The term was used mostly in colonial Asia (particularly India), but also in Africa (albeit rarely), for towns founded by European colonial rulers as refuges from the summer heat, up where temperatures are cooler.

Munnar is famous for its tea plantations, many of them started by the British. Munnar is situated around 1600 m above sea level, in the Western Ghats range of mountains.

The Western Ghats are one of the eight "hottest hotspots" of biological diversity in the world. They are sometimes called the Great Escarpment of India. The range runs north to south along the western edge of the Deccan Plateau, and separates the plateau from a narrow coastal plain, called Konkan, along the Arabian Sea.



One of the main attractions near Munnar is the Eravikulam National Park. This park is famous for its endangered inhabitant - the Nilgiri Tahr (pictured).

Top Station, which is about 32 km from Munnar is at a height of 1700 m above sea level. It is the highest point on the Munnar-Kodaikanal road. Travellers to Munnar visit Top Station to enjoy the panoramic view it offers of the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu.

KODAIKANAL



Kodaikanal is the most beautiful and popular hill station in Tamil Nadu. It is located in the famous Palani Hills in the Western Ghats and is known as the *princess of hill stations*. Kodaikanal is situated about 2,200 m above the sea level. It was established in 1845 as a refuge from the high temperatures and tropical diseases of the plains.

The word Kodaikanal means gift of the forest in the local language. The dense forest with many varieties of trees, the huge rocks in the wilderness, the large lake in the town and the enchanting waterfalls

make it a nature lover's haven. Kodaikanal is famous for eucalyptus oil, homemade chocolates, plums and pears.

OOTY

Ooty is another highly regarded hill station. We don't stay here but pass through on the way to Mudumalai National Park, taking in roads like the one pictured.

The landscape is marked by rolling hills covered with dense vegetation, smaller hills and plateaus covered with tea gardens and eucalyptus trees. Many portions of the hills are preserved as natural reserve forests. Ooty is not so much a destination in itself, but a focal point for touring the surrounding country side.



MUDUMALAI NATIONAL PARK



The Mudumalai National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, now also declared a Tiger Reserve, lies on the northwestern side of the Nilgiri Hills (Blue Mountains), in Nilgiri District, in the western-most part of Tamil Nadu. It's on the interstate boundaries with Karnataka and Kerala states. Mudumalai is one of the first wildlife sanctuaries established in India.

Here one can often spot herds of endangered Indian elephants, vulnerable Gaur³, and Chital (pictured). The sanctuary is a haven for Bengal Tigers and Indian Leopards and other threatened species. There are at least 266 species of birds in the sanctuary, including critically endangered species like the Indian white-rumped vulture and the long-

billied vulture.

There are 48 tigers in the Nilgiri Reserve across which tigers are free to roam. In April 2007, the Tamil Nadu state government declared Mudumalai as a Tiger Reserve in an effort to conserve the country's dwindling Tiger populations.



³ The gaur (*pron gower –rhymes with flower*) also called Indian bison, is the largest extant bovine and is native to South Asia.

MYSORE

Mysore is the second or third largest city in the state of Karnataka; and is located at the base of the Chamundi Hills about 146 km southwest of the state capital Bangalore. It was the capital city of the Kingdom of Mysore for nearly six centuries from 1399 until 1947.

The Kingdom of Mysore was ruled by the Wodeyar dynasty. The Wodeyar rulers were great patrons of art and culture, which you can see in the rich heritage of the city.



Mysore Palace

Mysore is noted for its palaces, in particular the Mysore Palace, pictured above. This palace was the official residence of the Wodeyars - the former royal family of Mysore. The palace also houses two durbar halls (ceremonial meeting hall of the royal court). The palace is within the old fort.

The Wodeyar kings first built a palace in Mysore in the 14th century. It was demolished and constructed multiple times. The current palace construction was commissioned in 1897, and it was completed in 1912 and expanded later around 1940.



The architectural style of the palace is commonly described as Indo-Saracenic⁴, and blends together Hindu, Muslim, Rajput, and Gothic styles of architecture. It is a three-stone structure, with marble domes and a 45 m five-storied tower. The palace is surrounded by a large garden.

The palace complex includes twelve Hindu temples. The oldest of these was built in the 14th century,

while the most recent was built in 1953.

Even though the Government of Karnataka maintains the Mysore Palace, a small portion has been allocated for the former Royal family to live in.

⁴ The Indo-Saracenic Revival (also known as Indo-Gothic, Mughal-Gothic, Neo-Mughal, or Hindu-Gothic) was an architectural style movement by British architects in the late 19th century in British India. It drew elements from native Indo-Islamic and Indian architecture, and combined it with the Gothic revival and Neo-Classical styles favoured in Victorian Britain.

Other Palaces

Other main palaces in Mysore are the Jaganmohana Palace, which also serves as an art gallery; Rajendra Vilas, also known as the summer palace; Lalitha Mahal, which has been converted into a hotel; and Jayalakshmi Vilas, a mansion constructed by Sri Chamaraja Wodeyar for his daughter Jayalakshammanni. It is now a museum dedicated to folk culture and artefacts of the royal family.



HASSAN

Hassan is located in the South Indian state of Karnataka. It has become a tourist destination for its unique style of architecture; but also for its proximity to the near-by centres of Belur and Halebid – former capitals of the Hoysala Dynasty and famous for their antique temples.

The region of Hassan had been under the control the Hoysalas (Hoysala Dynasty) from 11th to 13th centuries (1000s-1200s). It was during this period that the great temples of Belur and Halebid were constructed. Hassan was also greatly influenced by Jainism. It became a well-known centre of Jain literature.

Halebid (Halebeedu)

About 27 km north-west of Hassan and 17 km east of Belur, the temples of Halebid are the silent witness to the rich cultural heritage of Karnataka. The 12th century Hoysaleswara Temple is impressive for its awesome sculptural profusion. The walls of the temple are covered with an endless variety of gods and goddesses, animals, birds and dancing girls. This splendid temple - guarded by a Nandi Bull - was never completed, despite 86 years of hard labour. The Jain temples located nearby are equally rich in sculptural detail.



Belur



Situated about 38 km from Hassan, Belur is a picturesque town at a distance of 187 km from the capital Bangalore. The Channekeshava Temple at Belur is the only one of the three major Hoysala sites still in use. Construction of this temple commenced in 1116 to commemorate the Hoysala's victory over the Cholas at Talakad.

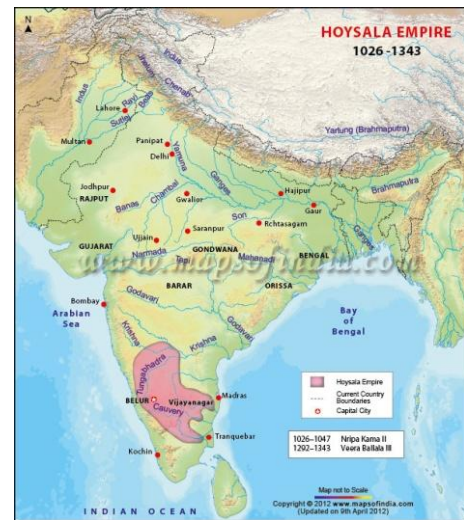
Shravanabelagola

At a distance of 51 km southeast of Hassan, Shravanabelagola is one of the most sacred Jain pilgrimage centres in Karnataka. Here is the 17 m high monolith of Lord Bahubali - the world's tallest monolithic statue. Thousands of devotees gather here to perform the Mahamastakabhisheka - a spectacular ceremony held once in 12 years, when the 1000-year-old statue is anointed with milk, curds, ghee, saffron and gold coins.

Hoysala Empire

The Hoysala Empire was a prominent Southern Indian empire that ruled most of the modern day state of Karnataka between the 10th and the 14th centuries. The capital of the Hoysalas was initially located at Belur but was later moved to Halebid.

The Hoysala era was an important period in the development of art, architecture, and religion in South India. The empire is remembered today primarily for its temple architecture. Over a hundred surviving temples are scattered across Karnataka, including the well known Chennakesava Temple at Belur, the Hoysaleswara Temple at Halebid, and the Kesava Temple at Somanathapura.



The Hoysala rulers also patronised the fine arts, encouraging literature to flourish in Kannada and Sanskrit.

The earlier kings of the Hoysala Dynasty were of the Jain faith, but the finest temples were dedicated to Shiva by the later monarchs in the dynasty. While the Hoysalas were at the zenith of their power, much of southern India was under their influence.

TURTLE BAY RESORT



Our next stop will be Turtle Bay Resort, missing Manipal (Udupi) as mentioned in official itinerary.

I found this on the Turtle Bay Resort:

“Established in the year 1990, the Karnataka-Trasi based Turtle Bay Resort is an eco-beach resort. Surrounded by the river Sowparnika on the east and the Arabian Sea on the west, the resort is set in an extremely scenic location. Be it

silent walks along the coast, swimming, relaxing on the sensuous sand and gravel or feeling the cold sea breeze, the resort offers immense opportunities that you can explore. You’ll grow to appreciate the beauty of virgin nature during your stay in this resort.”

I suspect it might be a long day getting there because the key sights around Hassan will, in fact, be after we leave Hassan heading back to the coast. The resort will be a welcome end to a busy day.

AGONDA

Agonda beach is the perfect beach for anyone who simply wants to relax away from it all, so we are told. This seemingly endless pristine beach stretches for around 3 km and is lined with simple beach shacks. Hawkers aren't allowed on the beach, so you'll be able to remain refreshingly undisturbed.



The much busier Palolem beach, south Goa's most popular beach, is just 15 minutes by motorbike (10 km) away. So, if the solitude at Agonda gets too much, you won't have far to go for entertainment.

ANJUNA



The Village of Anjuna is nestled between the Arabian Sea and the hill overlooking the beach. The beach is famous for its stunning natural beauty with swaying palms trees and soft powdered white sands. The beach is marked by an unusual rocky formation overlying a cove of white sand and black rock that juts out into the Sea. This area was known as the *Jewel of Anjuna* and called "Ozran".

One site reminisced "dear old Anjuna, that stalwart of India's hippy scene, still drags out the sarongs and sandalwood each Wednesday for its famous – and once infamous – flea market." (We arrive on a Wednesday and the market runs from dawn to dusk, so there should be time for a visit.) "Though Anjuna continues to pull in droves of backpackers, midrange tourists are increasingly making their way here for a dose of hippie-chic."

"Meanwhile Anjuna remains filled with a weird and wonderful, if these days somewhat diminished, collection of defiant ex-hippies, overlanders, monks, gentle lunatics, artists, artisans, seers, searchers and itinerant expatriates who have wandered far from the organic confines of health-food emporia."

THIVIM



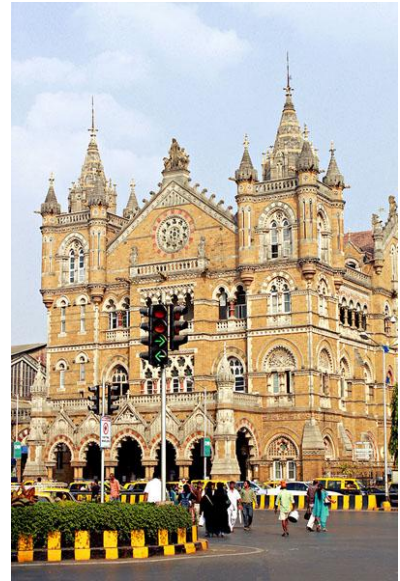
While the rest of our group head to the airport, we spend a few more hours on the beach before catching a taxi to the nearby railway station at Thivim where we pick up the Konkan Kanya Express for an overnight trip to Mumbai.

We arrive in Mumbai next morning at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus

It used to be called the Victoria Terminus.

It was designed by a British architect, Frederick William Stevens, with influences from Victorian Italianate Gothic Revival architecture and

traditional Mughal buildings. It was built in 1887 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. It is the busiest railway station in India, serving as a terminal for both long-distance trains and commuter trains. The station's name was changed to its present one in March 1996. That's it in the pictures below.



MUMBAI

Mumbai, earlier known as Bombay, is the largest city in India and the capital of Maharashtra state.

Mumbai was originally a conglomeration of seven islands on the Konkan coastline, which over time were joined to form the island city of Bombay. The island was in turn joined with the neighbouring island of Salsette to form *Greater Bombay*. The city has an estimated metropolitan population of 21 million (2005), making it one of the world's most populous cities.

Mumbai is the commercial capital of India and is one of the predominant port cities in the country. Mumbai's nature as the most eclectic and cosmopolitan Indian city is symbolized in the presence of *Bollywood* within the city, the centre of the globally-influential Hindi film and TV industries. It is also home to India's largest slum population.

Gateway of India



Mumbai's most recognized monument, the Gateway of India, was constructed to commemorate the visit of King George V and Queen Mary to the city. It was completed in 1924 and remains as a striking symbol of the British Raj era. After this era ended in 1947, the last of the British troops departed through the Gateway of India.

Colaba

The unofficial headquarters of Mumbai's tourist scene, Colaba sprawls down the city's southernmost peninsula. It's a bustling district packed with street stalls, markets, bars and budget to midrange lodgings. Colaba Causeway bisects the promontory and is the traffic-filled artery connecting Colaba's jumble of side streets and gently crumbling mansions.

Sassoon Dock, south of the main tourist action, is a scene of intense and pungent activity at dawn (around 05:00) when colourfully clad Koli fisherwomen sort the catch unloaded from fishing boats at the quay. The fish drying in the sun are bombil, the fish used in the dish Bombay duck.

The area that is now Colaba was originally a region consisting of two islands: Colaba and Little Colaba (or Old Woman's Island). The island of Colaba was one of the seven islands of Bombay ruled by the Portuguese. The group of islands was given by Portugal to Charles II of England as dowry when he married Catherine of Braganza.





The Colaba Causeway was completed in 1838, and thus, the two islands were joined to the others.

Leopold's Cafe and Bar is one of the landmarks of Colaba. It started life in 1871 but took its present form in 1987.

Elephanta Island

The island of Elephanta, the glorious abode of Lord Shiva and an epitome of Hindu cave culture, consists of seven caves on an island in the Sea of Oman close to Mumbai. With their decorated temples and the images from Hindu mythology, the caves bear a unique testimony to a civilization that has disappeared. Here, Indian art has found one of its most perfect expressions, particularly in the huge high reliefs in the main cave.



The date of the famous Elephanta Caves is still very much debated and varies from the 6th century to the 8th century according to different specialists. They constitute one of the most striking collections of rock-art in India. There are two groups of caves. To the east, Stupa Hill (thus named because of a small brick Buddhist monument at the top) contains two caves, one of which is unfinished, and several cisterns. To the west, the larger group consists of five rock-cut Hindu shrines. The main cave is universally famous for its carvings to the glory of Shiva, who is exalted in various forms and actions. The cave consists of a square plan whose sides measure about 27m.

Chor Bazaar

Mumbai's Chor Bazaar, which literally means "thieves market", has a fascinating history that spans more than 150 years. Apparently, it was originally called Shor Bazaar, meaning "noisy market", but "shor" became "chor" because of how the British mispronounced the word. Eventually stolen goods started finding their way into the market, resulting in it living up to its new name! These days it's famous for antique and vintage items.

To find Chor Bazaar, you'll need to venture right into the thick of Muslim Mumbai. It's located on Mutton Street, in the busy market area between S V Patel and Moulana Shaukat Ali Roads, near Mohammad Ali Road in south Mumbai. The closest local railway station is Grant Road.

Mahalaxmi Dhobi Ghat

This massive open air laundry provides an unforgettable glimpse into the inside of the city. Dirty laundry from all over Mumbai is brought here and painstakingly hand washed by the *dhobis* (washermen) in the seemingly endless rows of concrete troughs. The profession, handed down from generation to generation, requires incredible strength and determination. The thousands of *dhobis* spend hours every day standing up to their knees in water filled with chemicals, manually scrubbing and beating the dirt out of each item of laundry. This earns them 100 rupees (\$2.40) per day each.



Haji Ali

The imposing Haji Ali is both a mosque and tomb. It was built in 1431 by wealthy Muslim merchant and Sufi saint Pir Haji Ali Shah Bukhari, who was inspired to change the course of his life after going to Mecca. It also contains his body. Situated in the middle of the ocean, Haji Ali is only accessible during low tide from a narrow, 500 yard long walkway. On Thursdays and Fridays tens of thousands of pilgrims flock there to receive blessings from the dead saint. If you find you need to pass some time until the tide lowers enough, there's a shopping centre on the opposite side of the road.

Dharavi

Dharavi is a slum in Mumbai. It is one of the largest slums in the world.

Dharavi slum was founded in the 1880s during the British colonial era. The slum grew in part because of expulsion of factories and residents from the peninsular city centre by the colonial government and from rural poor migrating into urban Bombay. It is currently a multi-religious, multi-ethnic, diverse settlement. Dharavi's total population estimates vary between 300,000 to about 1 million.



Dharavi has an active informal economy. Numerous household enterprises employ the slum residents. It exports goods around the world. Leather, textiles, pottery products are illustrative goods made inside Dharavi by the slum residents. The total annual turnover has been estimated to be over US\$500 million.

Dharavi has suffered through many incidences of epidemics and other disasters. It currently covers an area of 535 acres (217 ha).

DELHI

New Delhi is the capital of India.

Delhi is two very different worlds, the 'old' and the 'new', each providing different experiences.

Spacious New Delhi was built as the imperial capital of India by the British. Old Delhi served as the capital of Islamic India from the time of Shah Jahan. An even older part of Delhi was the capital under the first Mughal emperors.

Red Fort

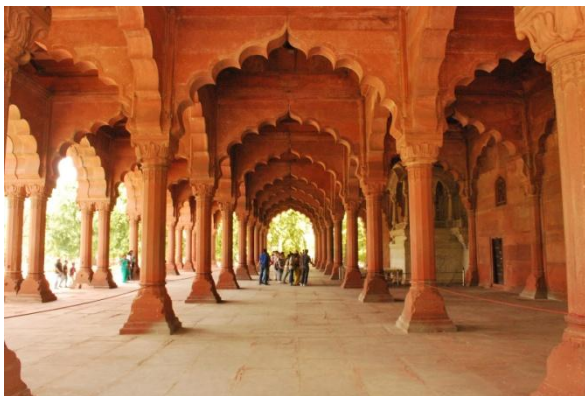
The Red Fort is one of Delhi's top tourist sights. A brilliant red sandstone fort built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as his ruling palace. Shah Jahan also built the Taj Mahal.

The red sandstone walls of the massive Red Fort (Lal Qila) rise 33 m above the clamour of Old Delhi as a reminder of the magnificent power and pomp of the Mughal emperors. The walls, built in 1638, were designed to keep out invaders, now they mainly keep out the noise and confusion of the city.



The main gate, Lahore Gate, is one of the emotional and symbolic focal points of the modern Indian nation and attracts a major crowd on each Independence Day.

The vaulted arcade of Chatta Chowk, a bazaar selling tourist trinkets, leads into the huge fort compound. Inside is a veritable treasure trove of buildings, including the Drum House, the Hall of Public Audiences, the white marble Hall of Private Audiences, the Pearl Mosque, Royal Baths and Palace of Colour.



The Chatta Chowk ends in the centre of the outer court. The side arcades and central tank were destroyed after the 1857 rebellion.

On the east wall of the court stands the now-isolated *Naubat Khana* (also known as *Nakkar Khana*), the drum house. Music was played at scheduled times daily next to a large gate, where everyone except royalty was required to dismount.

The inner main court to which the *Nakkar Khana* led was surrounded by guarded galleries. On the far side is the *Diwan-i-Aam*, the Public Audience Hall.

The hall's columns and arches exhibit fine craftsmanship, and the hall was originally decorated with white stucco. In the back in the raised recess the emperor gave his audience in the marble balcony where Jean-Baptiste Tavernier described seeing the jewelled Peacock Throne during the 17th century.

The *Diwan-i-Aam* was also used for state functions. The *mardana* (courtyard behind it) leads to the imperial apartments.

A gate on the north side of the *Diwan-i-Am* leads to the innermost court of the palace (*Jalau Khana*) and the *Diwan-i-Khas* (Hall of Private Audience). It is constructed of white marble, inlaid with precious stones. The once-silver ceiling has been restored in wood. At either end of the hall, over the two outer arches, is an inscription by Persian poet Amir Khusrow:

*If heaven can be on the face of the earth,
It is this, it is this, it is this.*



The imperial apartments consist of a row of pavilions on a raised platform along the eastern edge of the fort, overlooking the Yamuna River. The pavilions are connected by a canal, known as the *Nahr-i-Behisht* ("Stream of Paradise"), running through the centre of each pavilion. Water is drawn from the Yamuna via a tower, the *Shahi Burj*, at the northeast corner of the fort. The palace is designed to emulate paradise as described in the Quran. In the riverbed below

the imperial apartments and connected buildings was a space known as *zer-jharokha* ("beneath the latticework").

The two southernmost pavilions of the palace are *zenanas* (women's quarters), consisting of the *Mumtaz Mahal* and the larger *Rang Mahal*. The *Mumtaz Mahal* houses the archaeological museum.

The *Rang Mahal* housed the emperor's wives and concubines. Its name means "Palace of Colours", since it was brightly painted and decorated with a mosaic of mirrors. The central marble pool is fed by the *Nahr-i-Behisht*.

The *Khas Mahal* was the emperor's apartment. Connected to it is the *Muthamman Burj*, an octagonal tower where he appeared before the people waiting on the riverbank.

Jama Masjid

Opposite the Red fort, next to Chandni Chowk, a busy central street in Old Delhi, is the largest mosque in India: Jama Masjid.

It was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan and completed in the year 1656.



The highly decorative mosque has three great gates, four towers and two 40 m-high minarets constructed of strips of red sandstone and white marble.

The mosque was the result of the efforts of over 6,000 workers, over a period of six years (1650–1656)

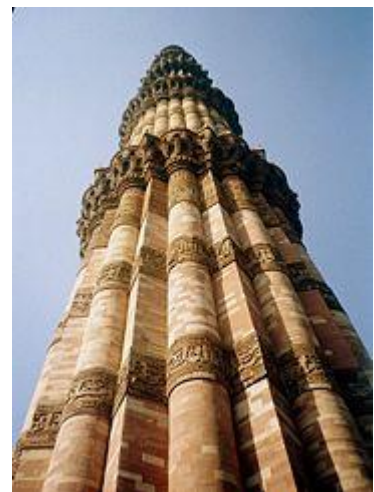
About 25,000 people can pray here at a time. The mosque has a vast paved rectangular courtyard, which is nearly 75 m by 66 m. The whole of the western chamber is a big hall standing on 260 pillars all carved from Hindu and Jain traditions. The central courtyard is accessible from the East. The Eastern side entrance leads to another enclosure containing the mausoleum of Sultan Ahmed Shah.

Qutb (Qutub)Complex

The Qutb complex is an array of monuments and buildings dating mostly from the Delhi Sultanate which preceded the Mughal Empire. Buildings here began with the very first Sultan of Delhi, Qutb-ud-din Aibak, from whom the name of the complex was derived.

Qutb-ud-din founded the Mamluk⁵ Dynasty, the first of the five dynasties that made up the Delhi Sultanate. He had been one of the generals of Muhammad Ghori, the head of the Ghurid Dynasty, which ruled an area that included parts of Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asia and Northern India before the Delhi Sultanate.

Following a victory of Muhammad Ghori over the great Rajput king Prithviraj Chauhan in 1192, Qutb-ud-din Aibak, as a viceroy of Muhammad Ghori, became his administrator of the North India part of the Ghurid Empire. The Ghurid Dynasty broke up after Ghori's death in 1215 and that part of the Ghurid Dynasty that stretched into northern India was taken over by Qutb-ud-din who thus began Mamluk Dynasty and he made himself the first sultan of the Delhi Sultanate.



The best-known structure in the complex is the Qutb Minar, built to celebrate the victory of Mohammed Ghori over the Rajput king Prithviraj Chauhan. Construction was started in 1192 by Qutb-ud-din Aibak and was carried on by his successor, Iltutmish. In 1368, Firoz Shah Tughlak, a Tughlaq dynasty⁶ Sultan of Delhi, constructed the fifth and the last storey.

The complex initially housed some twenty-seven ancient Hindu and Jain temples, which were destroyed and their material used in the construction of the Qutub Mosque.

Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque (Dome of Islam) (also known as the *Qutub*

⁵ Also called the Slave Dynasty. A “mamluk” was a soldier of slave origin who had converted to Islam. This practice started in 9th century; and gradually the Mamluks became a powerful military group in various Muslim societies.

⁶ The Tughlaq Dynasty was the third of the five dynasties making up the Delhi Sultanate.

Mosque or the *Great Mosque of Delhi*) was also built by Qutb-ud-din Aibak. It was the first mosque built in Delhi after the Islamic conquest of India and the oldest surviving example of Ghurids architecture in the Indian subcontinent. The mosque is built on a raised and paved courtyard surrounded by pillared cloisters added by Iltutmish between 1210 and 1220. To the west of the Quwwat ul-Islam mosque is the tomb of Iltutmish.

The iron pillar is one of the world's foremost metallurgical curiosities. The pillar, 7.21 m high and weighing more than six tonnes, was originally erected by Chandragupta II Vikramaditya (375–414 AD) in front of a Vishnu Temple complex at Udayagiri around 402 AD, and later shifted by Anangpal in 10th century from Udaygiri to its present location. Anangpal built a Vishnu Temple here and wanted this pillar to be a part of that temple.

At the back of the complex, southwest of the mosque, stands an L-shaped construction, consisting of Alauddin Khilji's tomb dating from 1316 and a madrasa (an Islamic seminary) built by him. Khilji was a Sultan of Delhi from Khilji dynasty⁷, who ruled from 1296 to 1316

Alauddin Khilji started building the Alai Minar, after he had doubled the size of Quwwat ul-Islam mosque. He conceived this tower to be two times higher than Qutb Minar in proportion with the enlarged mosque. The construction, however, was abandoned just after the completion of the 24.5 m high first-storey core. The first storey of the Alai Minar, a giant rubble masonry core, still stands today, which was evidently intended to be covered with dressed stone later on.



Purana Quila (Old Fort)

The Purana Qila substantially predates the Red Fort. In fact, archaeological evidence has been unearthed to indicate settlements on the site of Purana Qila from years BC.

The second Mughal Emperor, Humayun, made his capital, which was known as Din Panah, on the banks of the Yamuna River. He built the Purana Qila as the citadel of his capital. Although he had completed a lot of what constituted the Old Fort, he lost his empire to the Afghan chieftan, Sher Shah Suri, who became the first Afghan Emperor of India. That situation prevailed until Humayun won it back by defeating Sher Shah Suri fourteen years later. In the meantime, Sher Shah Suri had added to the Purana Qila by building the Qila-i-Kuhna Mosque and the Sher Mandal.



⁷ The Khilji Dynasty was the second dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate.



Unfortunately for Humayun, his enjoyment of once again becoming the Mughal Emperor was short-lived. He fell down the steps from the balcony of the Sher Mandal and died from his injuries. This was only six months after defeating Sher Shah Suri and reclaiming the throne. Humayun had made the Sher Mandal his private library and observatory. He was star gazing (he was obsessively preoccupied with astrology) on the balcony level when he heard the call to prayer. He was in such a hurry, he tripped on his robes and tumbled down the stairs. His

monumental tomb can be seen from the Purana Qila.

Humayun's Tomb

Humayun's Tomb is a large complex with several tombs and other monuments. The actual tomb of Humayun is the centrepiece.

Humayun was the second Mughal Emperor of India. His tomb was built by his widow in 1569-70, 14 years after his death. The tomb is considered a landmark in the development of Mughal architecture and the earliest extant example of the Mughal tradition of the garden tomb. The complex was later used for the burial of various members of the ruling family and contains some 150 graves. It has been described as the necropolis of the Mughal dynasty.



AGRA

Taj Mahal

The Taj Mahal was built by the Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan, in memory of his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The Taj Mahal is widely recognized as "the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage".

Taj Mahal is regarded by many as the finest example of Mughal architecture, a style that combines elements from Islamic, Persian, Ottoman Turkish and Indian architectural styles.



While the white domed marble mausoleum is the most familiar component of the Taj Mahal, it is actually an integrated complex of structures. The construction began around 1632 and was completed around 1653, employing thousands of artisans and craftsmen.

In 1631, Shah Jahan, emperor during the Mughal Empire's period of greatest prosperity, was grief-stricken when his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal, a Persian princess, died during the birth of their 14th child. Construction of the Taj Mahal began in 1632. The court chronicles of Shah Jahan's grief illustrate the love story traditionally held as an inspiration for Taj Mahal.



The principal mausoleum was completed in 1648 and the surrounding buildings and garden were finished five years later.

The Taj Mahal incorporates and expands on design traditions of Persian architecture and earlier Mughal architecture. While earlier Mughal buildings were primarily constructed of red sandstone, Shah Jahan promoted the use of white marble inlaid with semi-precious stones, and buildings under his patronage reached new levels of refinement.

The tomb is the central focus of the entire complex of the Taj Mahal. This large, white marble structure stands on a square plinth and consists of a symmetrical building with an iwan (an arch-shaped doorway) topped by a large dome and finial. Like most Mughal tombs, the basic elements are Persian in origin.

Agra Fort

Agra Fort was originally a brick fort, held by Rajputs. It was mentioned for the first time in 1080. Sikander Lodi (1488–1517) was the first Sultan of Delhi who shifted to Agra and lived in the fort. He governed the country from here; and Agra assumed the importance of the second capital. He died in the fort at 1517 and his son, Ibrahim Lodi, held it for nine years until he was defeated and killed by Babur at Panipat in 1526. Several palaces, wells and a mosque were built by him in the fort during his period.



After the First Battle of Panipat in 1526, Mughals captured the fort and seized a vast treasure, including the diamond later known as the Koh-i-Noor. The victorious Babur stayed in the fort in the palace of Ibrahim and built a baoli (step well) in it.

The emperor Humayun was crowned here in 1530. Humayun was defeated at Bilgram in 1540 by Sher Shah. The fort remained with Suris till 1555, when Humanyun recaptured it.



On hearing of Humayun's death (January 1556), the powerful Hindu king, Hem Chandra Vikramaditya, also called 'Hemu', attacked Agra, defeated the Mughal army and occupied Agra Fort.

Hemu got a huge booty from this fort and went on to capture Delhi from the Mughals.

While Akbar had already succeeded his father as emperor, he was only 14 at this time. However, his regent, Bairam Khan, re-assembled the Mughal army, which defeated Hemu at the Second Battle of Panipat in November 1556. Akbar was also at the battle and earned the title of "Ghazi" by being the first to strike the defeated Hemu (he was dead already!).

Realizing the importance of its central situation of Agra, Akbar made it his capital and arrived there in 1558. His historian, Abdul Fazal, recorded that the fort was a brick fort known as 'Badalgarh'. It was in a ruined condition and Akbar had it rebuilt with red sandstone from Rajasthan. Architects laid the foundation and it was built with bricks in the inner core with sandstone on external surfaces. Some 4,000 builders worked on it daily for eight years, completing it in 1573.

It was only during the reign of Akbar's grandson, Shah Jahan, that the site took on its current state. Unlike his grandfather, Shah Jahan tended to have buildings made from white marble, often inlaid

with gold or semi-precious gems. He destroyed some of the earlier buildings inside the fort to make his own palaces within the fort.

At the end of his life, Shah Jahan was deposed and restrained by his son, Aurangzeb, in the fort. Shah Jahan died in Muasamman Burj, a tower with a marble balcony with a view of the Taj Mahal.

Agra Fort was built as a military base by the great Mughal ruler, Akbar, in 1565. It was converted into a palace during Shah Jahan's time. Although the main structure was built by Akbar, many additions were made by later rulers.



The colossal walls are 6 metres high. The structures inside the fort give an impression of a city within the city. The marble pearl mosque inside the fort is one of the most beautiful mosques in India.

Fatehpur Sikri

Fatehpur Sikri was founded in 1569 by the Mughal emperor Akbar, and served as the capital of the Mughal Empire from 1571 to 1585. After his military victories in Rajputana, Akbar decided to shift his capital from Agra to a new location 37 km to the south west on the Sikri ridge, to honour the Sufi saint Salim Chishti. Here he commenced the construction of a planned walled city which took the next fifteen years in planning and construction of a series of royal palaces, harem, courts, a mosque, private quarters and other utility buildings.



He named the city, Fatehabad, with *Fateh*, a word of Arabic origin in Persian, meaning "victorious." It was later called Fatehpur Sikri. Fatehpur Sikri is one of the best preserved collections of Mughal architecture in India.



The imperial Palace complex consists of a number of independent pavilions arranged in formal geometry on a piece of level ground, a pattern derived from Arab and central Asian tent encampments. In its entirety, the monuments at Fatehpur Sikri reflect the genius of Akbar in assimilating diverse regional architectural influences within a style that was uniquely his own.

The imperial complex was abandoned in 1585, shortly after its completion, due to paucity of water and its proximity with the Rajputana areas in the North-West, which were increasingly in turmoil. Also, Akbar wanted a better strategic location for

his capital, so he shifted it to Lahore, which was closer to some trouble spots, before moving it back Agra in 1598.

Today much of the imperial complex which spread over a nearly 4 km long and 2 km wide area is largely intact and resembles a ghost town. It is still surrounded on three sides by a 10 km long wall built during its original construction.

The tomb of the Sufi saint Sheikh Salim Chishti is famed as one of the finest examples of Mughal architecture in India, built during the years 1580 and 1581. The mausoleum, constructed by Akbar as a mark of his respect for the Sufi saint, who foretold the birth of his son, who was named Prince Salim after him and later succeeded Akbar to the throne of the Mughal Empire, as Jahangir.

