

## Journey to India & Sri Lanka



Prepared for  
Ian and Jane

29 January 2011 to 26 February 2011

## QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

29/01/2011	Depart London Heathrow on the British Airways flight to Hyderabad
30/01/2011	Hyderabad
31/01/2011	Hyderabad
01/02/2011	Hyderabad/Raipur/Kanker
02/02/2011	Kanker
03/02/2011	Kanker
04/02/2011	Jagdapur
05/02/2011	Jagdapur
06/02/2011	Jagdapur
07/02/2011	Jagdapur
08/02/2011	Rayagada
09/02/2011	Jeypore
10/02/2011	Vishakhapatnam
11/02/2011	Vishakhapatnam/Covelong
12/02/2011	Covelong
13/02/2011	Chennai/Colombo/Galle
14/02/2011	Galle
15/02/2011	Galle
16/02/2011	Galle
17/02/2011	Galle/Thalpe
18/02/2011	Thalpe
19/02/2011	Thalpe
20/02/2011	Thalpe
21/02/2011	Thalpe
22/02/2011	Thalpe/Galle
23/02/2011	Galle
24/02/2011	Galle
25/02/2011	Galle/Colombo/Chennai
26/02/2011	Depart Chennai on the British Airways flight to London Heathrow

## INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CLASS FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Date	Route	Flight Number	Depart	Arrive
29/01/2011	London Heathrow/Hyderabad	BA0277	13:35	04:35*
13/02/2011	Chennai/Colombo	IT061	12:45	14:05
25/02/2011	Colombo/Chennai	9W251	20:55	22:15
26/02/2011	Chennai/London Heathrow	BA036	04:00	09:45

\* Arrival the following day

## DOMESTIC FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Date	Route	Flight Number	Depart	Arrive
01/02/2011	Hyderabad/Raipur	S2601	12:05	13:10
11/02/2011	Vishakhapatnam/Chennai	9W2774	08:45	10:30

### Flight Notes:

Your flights are ticketed in the names of **Ian Harris** and **Celia Wormleighton**. If these are not the names in your passport please let us know immediately.

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travel beyond the ordinary.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

**Saturday 29 January**

**London/Hyderabad**

Depart London Heathrow on the British Airways flight to Hyderabad (overnight).

This flight departs at 13:35hrs today from Terminal 5.

Your flights are booked in Club Class for both outbound and return journeys.

**Sunday 30 January**



**Hyderabad**

Please claim your luggage and continue to the arrival hall where a Steppes Travel representative will be waiting to transfer you directly to the Taj Krishna.

Your accommodation has been booked for you from Sunday, for 2 nights. An early check in will be requested for you today.

Spend the rest of the day at leisure to recuperate from the long flight.

During your stay in Hyderabad we can arrange for you to take dinner at the newly opened and completely restored Falaknuma Palace, managed by the Taj Group. Please advise if you would like to dine Sunday or Monday evening.

*Overnight at Taj Krishna in a Club Room on a bed and breakfast basis.*

**Monday 31 January**

**Hyderabad**

After a leisurely breakfast you will be met by your private English speaking guide for a full day touring the city of Hyderabad. Places of interest include Golconda Fort, the tombs, Salarjung Museum, Charminar, the Mosque and the Qutub Shahi tomb.

*Overnight at Taj Krishna in a Club Room on a bed and breakfast basis.*

**Tuesday 1 February**



**Hyderabad/Raipur/Kanker**

This morning your driver will be waiting to transfer you to the airport. You board the Jet Airways flight to Raipur, departing at 12:05hrs and arriving at 13:10hrs.

On arrival you will be met by another driver and travel about 2 and 1/2 hrs drive (140 kms) to Kanker.

On arrival at Kanker Palace you will be greeted with their traditional welcome. After settling down in your rooms in the evening you will be entertained by Chhattisgarhi folk musicians and made to feel extremely welcome in this heritage property.

*Overnight Kanker Palace in a Superior room on a full board basis.*

**Wednesday 2 February**

**Kanker**

Today visit villages near Charama which is about 30 kms from kanker.



You have the opportunity to have lunch at the farm house of the family which use to be the hunting lodge of the Maharaja. Here you can get to see agricultural activities of the village and to be involved a little.

Later after lunch you will visit some forestry reserves. Boating will be arranged in traditional fisherman boats on the river Mahanadi.

*Overnight Kanker Palace in a Superior room on a full board basis.*

#### **Thursday 3 February**



#### **Kanker**

Today after breakfast the Bastar tribal experience begins. South of Kanker you and your royal guide drive along the forested Keshkal Ghat, which marks the border of Bastar 500m above the plain. Here you will see some spectacular views of the tropical jungle below, and encounter the special nature of North Bastar. Later on, you will visit the village of the Deer-Horn Murai Tribe to catch a glimpse of the Ghotul System. Here you will be their guest and enjoy the wonderful village food with some local tarty. After lunch, you could catch a glimpse of a small tribal market before returning to the Palace for your final night in this area.

*Overnight Kanker Palace in a Superior room on a full board basis*

#### **Friday 4 February**

#### **Kanker/Jagdalpur**

This morning you will drive to Jagdalpur, stopping en route by tribal villages and then proceed to Nagarnar tribal Haat. In Kondagoan you will meet some tribal craft communities where you will discover some of Bastar's finest handicrafts and the people who make them. Also visit Anthropology Museum.

*Overnight Bastar Jungle resort on a full board basis.*

#### **Saturday 5 February**

#### **Jagdalpur**

Today visit Kurandi village and later proceed to the palace and Chitrakote waterfall.

*Overnight Bastar Jungle resort on a full board basis.*

#### **Sunday 6 February**



#### **Jagdalpur/Narainpur/Jagdalpur**

Today an early start will allow us to reach the largest weekly market in the Bastar region in good time. The drive is approximately 2 hours each way from Bastar Jungle Resort and the market starts after lunch.

*Overnight Bastar Jungle resort on a full board basis.*

#### **Monday 7 February**

#### **Jagdalpur**

Full day tour visiting Tirathgarh & Kailash caves in Kanger valley national park. The driving is approximately 3 hours. You will witness the Bison Horn Tribe and their dance, Tokapal Tribal haat.

*Overnight Bastar Jungle resort on a full board basis.*

## Tuesday 8 February

### Jagdalpur/Rayaguda

You will depart the Jungle Resort after breakfast today and drive for approximately 5 hours to reach Rayagada.

*Arrive and stay at hotel Tejaswini International in a Presidential Suite on a full board basis.*

## Wednesday 9 February

### Rayaguda/Chatikona Tribal Market/Jeypore

The drive to the market today is approximately 4 hours. On arrival you will visit the Dongaria Kond Tribals who live in the hills and come down for weekly market. They wear elaborate hair pins, nose rings anklets and are quite distinctive and very primitive.

Chatikona tribal Market. - Jeypore is a further 2.5 hours drive from the market.

Arrive and check into Hello Jeypore later today where you will spend one night.

*Overnight at Hello Jeypore in the White room on a full board basis.*



## Thursday 10 February

### Jeypore/Vishakhapatnam

Today you will visit Anakadeli Tribal Market. Bondo tribes. Second most primitive tribe in India. They wear beads as dress and as headgear and thick silver necklace.

Your accompanying escort will leave you today, as you continue on to Vishakhapatnam.

Drive to Vishakhapatnam where you will spend your last night in Orissa.

Arrive and check into Taj Gateway Hotel Beach Road Vishakhapatnam. If time permits you have the opportunity to visit the local attractions of this city; however you may opt to just relax at the Taj. Please advise your choice with our local agent on the day.

*Overnight at Taj Gateway Hotel in a Deluxe Suite on a bed and breakfast basis*



## Friday 11 February

### Vishakhapatnam/Chennai/Covelong

Morning transfer to airport in time to board flight for Chennai.

Jet Airways: 9W 2774 at 0845 hrs/1030 hrs.

You will be met at the airport by a Steppes Travel representative and transferred the short distance south to the coast. The drive is approximately 1 hour from the airport.

The rest of the day is at your leisure to enjoy the relaxing environment.

*Conforming to the highest international standards, Fisherman's Cove offers a wide choice of accommodation. Guests can choose*



*from a range of rooms with gorgeous views of the palm-fringed beach, lapped by the waters of the Bay of Bengal. The hotel also has a number of cottages set amongst palm trees on the beach.*

*Overnight at Fishermans Cove in a Deluxe Delight Garden View room on a bed and breakfast basis.*

## Saturday 12 February

### Covelong/Kanchipuram/Mahabalipuram

Today I advise an early breakfast in order to make an early start to visit the famous temples of Mahabalipuram and Kanchipuram.

Later you will return to Fishermans Cove for your dinner and final night in India.

*Overnight at Fishermans Cove in a Deluxe Delight Garden View room on a bed and breakfast basis.*

## Sunday 13 February



### Chennai/Colombo

After a leisurely breakfast your car and driver will meet you at the hotel lobby. Your local agent will advise you by Saturday at what time this will be. Your flight to Sri Lanka departs today at 12:45hrs.

You will be assisted at the airport at check in.

On arrival in Colombo today you will be met by a driver from Red Dot Tours who will take you, by private car, to Galle and 41 Lighthouse Street. This is a drive of approximately four hours but stops can be made en route.

Arrive Galle and 41 Lighthouse Street later today where you'll be met by the house staff and shown your home for the next four nights.

## Monday 14 February - Wednesday 16 February



### Galle

Three full days to explore Galle and enjoy this lovely villa. You have sole use of the villa and the house staff will be on hand for anything you require. Please discuss with them how you'd like to structure your day and, as I discussed with Jane, feel free to go to the market with the cook and enjoy some Sri Lankan cooking lessons!

Galle is considered the most important town in the South and has managed to retain its colonial atmosphere. The Portuguese, Dutch and British have all made their mark on this interesting port and it is well worth spending time exploring the town within the fort walls, which was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988. It is an excellent place for shopping and eating and some of our favourites spots are:

Elephant Walk - clothes and gifts  
M M Ibrahim - Gems and Jewellery  
Barefoot - clothes and gifts

Amangalla - lunch, afternoon tea or dinner (also amazing spa) -



expensive but a must even for a coffee as Amangalla (the former new Oriental Hotel) is one of, if not the most beautiful buildings in Galle.

Galle Fort - wonderful dinner

The Lighthouse - good value dinner and spa

The Fort Printers - stylish food in the Fort

The Sun House - good for lunch and dinner, just outside the fort walls

Also dotted around the fort and harbour are local fish restaurants and small shops - perfect for a more informal, local feel.

**Thursday 17 February**

**Galle/Thalpe**

Today you'll be driven to the Frangipani Tree, approximately 20-30 minutes drive away. Here the Olive Ridley Suite will be reserved on a bed and breakfast basis.

**Friday 18 February -  
Monday 21 February**

**Thalpe**

Four full days to relax on the beach, play tennis and enjoy this charming boutique hotel. While in Thalpe I'd suggest you walk to Wijaya, which is a sweet, beach front restaurant, great for sunsets and the local ginger beer (with a splash of vodka) that I mentioned to Jane!

Overnight in the Olive Ridley Suite on a bed and breakfast basis.

**Tuesday 22 February**

**Thalpe/Galle**

Today you'll be driven, by private car to Rathgama, near Galle and the Aditya. Here the Surya Suite will be reserved on a bed and breakfast basis.

**Wednesday 23 February -  
Thursday 24 February**

**Galle**

Two full days based at Aditya. While here you can relax on your private terrace or return to further explore Galle.

Overnight in the Surya Suite on a bed and breakfast basis.

**Friday 25 February**



**Galle/Colombo/Chennai**

Today you'll be collected from Aditya and driven to Colombo Airport. Depart Colombo on the Jet Airways flight to Chennai. On arrival at Chennai you will need to collect your luggage and make your way to the arrivals hall. Your car and driver will be waiting for you to transfer you to a local airport hotel to take refreshments and supper if you so desire. The driver will return you to the airport in good time for check in, after which you can use the Club Class lounge before your departure at 04:00hrs.

**Saturday 26 February**

**Chennai/London Heathrow**

Depart Chennai on the British Airways flight to London Heathrow arriving the same day at 09:45hrs.



## ITINERARY NOTES

**Includes:**

- International Club Class flights with BA
- Domestic flights and regional flights within India onto Sri Lanka (Business Class for Sri Lanka return)
- Accommodation in a double room with breakfast throughout
- Full board where stated
- Transport and transfers by private vehicle
- Sightseeing with English speaking local guides
- Entrances to all museums and monuments mentioned

**Excludes:**

- Items of a personal nature
- Additional meals/drinks
- Gratuities
- Travel insurance
- Visa charges

**Notes:**

Steppes Travel are not liable for any necessary changes to your itinerary due to reasons beyond our control like changes in flights and train schedules, cancellations of flight/trains, political disturbances, natural phenomenon.

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## YOUR CONSULTANTS

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For a number of years before joining Steppes Travel in 2007, I lived and worked in Europe as a tour representative. My passion for travel has led to many exciting opportunities from working alongside Aboriginal communities in Kakadu, Australia, to studying the ancient art of Thai massage in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and exploring India from its northern border to the balmy south using only road transport - a challenge that took over 3 months to complete! I now specialise in tailor made itineraries to the India subcontinent and Asia, while also creating unique Villa Holidays around the globe.



Sally, the General Manager of Steppes East, is responsible for our resort portfolio and provides tailor made itineraries for countries ranging from Russia through to Indonesia. Having grown up in South East Asia, Sally has travelled extensively and endeavours to offer the very best of the many luxurious resorts from around the world. She has recently returned from India, Sri Lanka and Oman.