



ITINERARY SPECIALLY PREPARED FOR



**Kagyu Institute for
Buddhist Studies(KIBS)**

Pilgrimage to Southern & Western India

(Amravati, Ajanta & Ellora Caves & Global Vibaasana Pagoda - Mumbai)

From 8th October till 18th October 2015

Day 01	SINGAPORE - HYDERABAD	
Thursday 08 October 2015 	20:10 Hours: Depart by Silk Air Flight No. MI 474 22:15 Hours: Arrival in Hyderabad Welcome & assistance on arrival at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, then transfer to Hotel. Overnight.	
Day 02	HYDERABAD – VIJAYWADA	+ - 270 Km / 6 Hours
Friday 09 October 2015 	Breakfast at Hotel Morning: Proceed for sightseeing tour of Hyderabad & visit following monuments / sites : ① Ananda Buddha Vihara - is a beautiful Buddha Temple, built in a distinctive style, located on the top of a hillock. ② Qutub Shahi Tombs - the tombs of 7 Qutub Shahi rulers. Planned and built by Qutub Shahis, these tombs are constructed by grey granite, on an elevated square platform. These tombs are dome-structured and have a quadrangular shape ③ Hussain Sagar Lake (drive past) - one of the largest man-made lake & a famous monolith of Lord Buddha is installed at the center of the lake. ④ Charminar - it was built by Sultan Mohammed Quli Qutub Shah in 1591 in honour of his wife Bhagmati, shortly after he had shifted his capital from Golconda to what now is known as Hyderabad. ⑤ Mecca Masjid - next to the Charminar is one of the largest in the world. Lunch at Hotel Afternoon: drive to Vijaywada. Upon arrival check – in at Hotel. Dinner at Hotel Overnight.	
Day 03	VIJAYWADA – AMARAVATI – NAGARJUNA SAGAR	+ - 70 Km + 180 / 5-6 Hours
Saturday 10 October 2015 	Breakfast at Hotel Morning: Drive to Nagarjuna Sagar en-route stop in Amravati & visit following sites : ① Amravati Stupa - Also known as the Mahachaitya Stupa, the Amravati Stupa happens to be the largest stupa in the country. ② Ashokan Pillar - excavations in Amravati have also unearthed the ruins of an Ashokan Pillar which is perhaps the first example of the Mauryan art in south India. ③ Amravati Museum - a small but interesting museum in Amravati display exhibits that range between 3rd century BC to 12th century AD. Some of the finest exhibits include statues of the Buddha with lotus symbols on his feet, curled hair and long ear lobes. Apart from this, there are also limestone sculptures of goddess Tara and bodhisattva Padmapani. ④ Amareswara Temple - this temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and houses a 15feet high white marble Shiva Lingam. On the four sides of the temple are huge gopurams in a typically Dravidian temple architectural style. As per a legend, the temple was initially a Buddhist one and was converted into a Hindu one only later. Lunch at AP Tourism Restaurant or Similar Continue drive to Nagarjuna Sagar. Upon arrival check – in at Hotel. Dinner at Hotel Overnight.	



Special puja would perform in Amravati.



HYDERABAD - is the capital of Andhra Pradesh & also now capital of new State of Telangana. The name Hyderabad means "Hyder's abode" or "lion city". Hyderabad was historically known as a pearl and diamond trading centre, and it continues to be known as the City of Pearls. Established in 1591 by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, Hyderabad remained under the rule of the Qutb Shahi dynasty for nearly a century before the Mughals captured the region. In 1724, Mughal viceroy Asif Jah I declared his sovereignty and created his own dynasty, known as the Nizams of Hyderabad. The Nizam's dominions became a princely state during the British Raj, and remained so for 150 years, with the city serving as its capital.

VIJAYAWADA - earlier known as Bezawada, is the third largest city in Andhra Pradesh, located on the banks of the Krishna River and bounded by the Indrakiladri Hills on the West and the Bundameru River on the North. Vijayawada literally translates to "The Place of Victory". Its prominence as a major trading and business center has earned it the title of the "Business Capital of Andhra Pradesh".

AMARAVATI – home to best known 2000 years old Buddhist relics, which make the place an important pilgrimage for the Buddhists. It was the capital of the Satavahanas, the first great dynasty of the Andhra Kings who ruled between 2nd century B.C to the 3rd century A.D. Amravati was also once amongst the four major learning centres in India which attracted a large number of students from all over the world. According to the sources the Buddha preached at Dharanikota/Dhanyakatakam and conducted Kalachakra ceremony, which would take the antiquity of Amravati back to 500 BCE. The Amravati Buddhist sculptures are world-famous. Slabs with Buddhist inscriptions were found in its groundwork, the temple is said to have been a Buddhist shrine in the previous times, famous for its world famous Buddhist sculptures. Amravati Mahachaitya (The Great Stupa), built around the 2nd century must have been the largest stupa in the whole country.



Day 04	NAGARJUNA SAGAR						
Sunday 11 October 2015	<p>Breakfast at Hotel Morning: Proceed to visit following site :</p> <p>≈ ANUPU - is a site of Buddhist excavations reconstructed to perfection with painstaking effort. Several brick structures such as Amphitheater, Maha Vihara, Asthabhuja Swamy Temple, Sarvadeva Temple and Hariti Temple were reconstructed. During the construction of the Nagarjunasagar Dam, the ruins of an ancient Buddhist university were excavated. These have been reconstructed at Anupu.</p>   <p>Lunch at Hotel Afternoon: Proceed to Nagarjuna Sagar to cruise (duration about 1 Hour - One way) over Dam to visit Nagarjuna Konda.</p>  <p>≈ NAGARJUNA KONDA (meaning Nagarjuna Hill): is a historical Buddhist town, now an island located near Nagarjuna Sagar. It is one of India's richest Buddhist sites, known in the ancient times as Sri Parvata. It now lies almost entirely under the Nagarjunasagar Dam. It is named after Nagarjuna, a southern Indian master of Mahayana Buddhism who lived in the 2nd century AD, who is believed to have been responsible for the Buddhist activity in the area. The site was once the location of many Buddhist universities and monasteries. The Buddhist archaeological sites there were submerged, and had to later be dug up and transferred to higher land on the hill, which had become an Island.</p> <p>After the visit of Nagarjuna Konda, cruise back (duration 1 hour - one way) to Nagarjuna Sagar main Land. Disembark from Boat, then transfer back to Hotel.</p> <p>Dinner at Hotel Overnight.</p>						
Day 05	NAGARJUNA SAGAR - HYDERABAD + - 150 Km / 3 Hours - AURANGABAD						
Monday 12 October 2015	<p>Breakfast at Hotel Morning: Drive to Hyderabad. Upon arrival, transfer to Secunderabad Junction Railway Station to take train to Aurangabad.</p> <p>Lunch → Hot or Box Lunch on Board.</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>11 : 50 Hours</td> <td>⇒ Check – in at Railway Station</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 : 25 Hours</td> <td>⇒ Depart by 17058 Devagiri Express</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23 : 20 Hours</td> <td>⇒ Arrival in Aurangabad Railway Station.</td> </tr> </table> <p>Dinner → Box Dinner on Board.</p> <p>Meeting & assistance on arrival at Aurangabad Railway Station, then transfer to Hotel. Overnight.</p> 	11 : 50 Hours	⇒ Check – in at Railway Station	12 : 25 Hours	⇒ Depart by 17058 Devagiri Express	23 : 20 Hours	⇒ Arrival in Aurangabad Railway Station.
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Day 06	AURANGABAD – AJANTA - AURANGABAD						
Tuesday 13 October 2015	<p>Breakfast at Hotel Morning: Day excursion to Ajanta Caves.</p> <p>≈ AJANTA CAVES - showcase the Buddhist stories of the period between 200 B.C. and 650 A.D. This group of caves was discovered by few British Officers, who went for a tiger hunt in the site. There are 29 caves in Ajanta, constructed by some Buddhist monks, using tools like chisel and hammer. These caves were habited by the Buddhist monks, who imparted knowledge and performed rituals in the Viharas and the Chaityas, the age-old seats of learning. The paintings and sculptures of the caves portray stories from the Jataka tales. The caves also feature images of princesses and nymphs.</p>   <p>Lunch at MTDC Restaurant in Ajanta. Continue visits of Ajanta Caves and drive back to Aurangabad. On arrival check – in at Hotel.</p> <p>Dinner at Hotel Overnight.</p>						

Note →	Ajanta Caves in Aurangabad closed on every Mondays
	Ellora Caves in Aurangabad closed on every Tuesdays

NAGARJUNA SAGAR - the world's largest masonry Dam is located across the River Krishna. The excavations of a Buddhist Complex are preserved in an Island-Museum, Nagarjunakonda. The museum contains a number of Buddhist relics and artifacts excavated from the valley. The construction of the dam submerged an ancient Buddhist settlement, Nagarjunakonda, which was the capital of the Ikshvaku dynasty in the 1st and 2nd centuries, the successors of the Satavahanas in the Eastern Deccan. Excavations here had yielded 30 Buddhist monasteries, as well as art works and inscriptions of great historical importance.

AURANGABAD - The gateway to the World Heritage sites of Ajanta and Ellora Caves. Malik Amber founded the city, originally called Khadke or "Big Rock", in the early 16th century. The city is known for its medieval monuments and cultural heritage and was the seat of the Mughal Empire for a short period. Malik Ambar died in 1626. He was succeeded by his son Fateh Khan, who changed the name of Khadki to Fatehnagar. In 1653 when Mughal prince Aurangzeb was appointed the viceroy of the Deccan for the second time, he made Fatehnagar his capital and renamed it Aurangabad. Aurangabad is sometimes referred to as Khujista Bunyad by the Chroniclers of Aurangzeb's reign.



Day 07	AURANGABAD – ELLORA - AURANGABAD										
<p>Wednesday 14 October 2015</p>  	<p>Breakfast at Hotel Morning: Proceed to visit Ellora Caves.</p> <p>≈ ELLORA CAVES - were built during the period of 350 AD to 700 AD. It presents structures with the three faiths of Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism. There are 34 caves in Ellora and the interiors of these cave temples are rich in facades and sculptures. The 17 caves in the middle are devoted to the Hinduism, the 12 caves found in the south are dedicated to the Buddhist and the 5 caves located in the north are Jain. The Kailashanath Temple found in Cave 16 is noted for its architecture. The whole structure was a piece engraved out from a monolith and the process took almost a century for its completion. The most noted aspect of this structure is that the architects of this sculptures started engraving from the top and the sides and not from the base like the other structures. The Dumar Lena cave, which is devoted to Lord Shiva, the Hindu god, shares similarities with the Elephanta cave temple which is in Mumbai. The Jain caves are located around a mile away from the Kailasha temple, where the Cave 32, houses a shrine featuring an engraved lotus flower on the roof. The other Jain caves houses the images of Tirthankaras and one cave features a seated figurine of Mahavira. These caves showcase the wealth and heritage of India.</p> <p>Lunch at Hotel Afternoon: Proceed for sightseeing of Aurangabad & visits following monuments / sites :</p> <p>① Daulatabad Fort - Daulatabad or “ the city of fortune ” was named by the Delhi Sultan Muhammad Tughlaq. This Fort is known to be the oldest existing Forts of India. ② Aurangabad Caves - nestled amidst the hills are 12 Buddhist caves probably dating back to the 1 A.D. of particular interest are the Tantric influences evident in the iconography and architectural designs of the caves. ③ Bibi Ka Maqbara - built in the memory of Begum Rabia Durani, by her son Prince Azam Shah. Bibi Ka Maquabara is a complete replica of Taj Mahal & it is an excellent example of the Percian Architecture.</p> <p>Dinner at Hotel Overnight.</p>										
Day 08	AURANGABAD - MUMBAI										
<p>Thursday 15 October 2015</p> 	<p>Breakfast at Hotel Morning: Day Free at leisure till departure (Check-Out 12.00 noon).</p> <p>Lunch at Hotel Afternoon: Transfer to Aurangabad Railway Station to take train to Mumbai.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="656 936 1156 1003"> <tr> <td>14 : 00 Hours</td> <td>⇒</td> <td>Check – in at Railway Station</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14 : 35 Hours</td> <td>⇒</td> <td>Depart by 17618 Tapovan Express</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21 : 50 Hours</td> <td>⇒</td> <td>Arrival in Mumbai CST Railway Station.</td> </tr> </table> <p>Meeting & assistance on arrival at Mumbai CST Railway Station, then transfer to Hotel.</p> <p>Dinner at Hotel Overnight.</p>	14 : 00 Hours	⇒	Check – in at Railway Station	14 : 35 Hours	⇒	Depart by 17618 Tapovan Express	21 : 50 Hours	⇒	Arrival in Mumbai CST Railway Station.	
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Day 09	MUMBAI										
<p>Friday 16 October 2015</p>  	<p>Breakfast at Hotel Morning: Proceed to visit Kanheri Caves.</p> <p>≈ KANHERI CAVES - are located inside Sanjay Gandhi National Park in the outskirts of North Mumbai. The name of these caves has originated from the Sanskrit word ‘Krishnagiri’, meaning black in colour. Chiselled out of basaltic rock outcropping, these caves are extremely old and have links to the Buddhist religion. These caves were formed between 1st century BC and 9th century AD, with the earliest rocks comprising 109 tiny rock cut cells. Most caves were named as Buddhist Viharas in ancient times and were meant for living, study and meditation. The site also served as a university during the rule of Kushanas and Mauryas. Kanheri caves are divided into three different caves, each of which has a stone plinth for a bed. There is a congregation hall, which has huge stone pillars containing a stupa (a Buddhist shrine). Cave number 3 has two statues of Lord Buddha at the entrance, giving it a beautiful look. Presently, the caves contain more than 100 inscriptions, carved in Pallavi, Brahmi, Devnagari and Sanskrit. Further up the hill, remains of ancient water systems, cisterns and canals are found that were once used to channel and collect rainwater into huge tanks.</p> <p>Lunch at Local Restaurant. Afternoon: Proceed to visit Global Vipassana Pagoda.</p> <p>≈ GLOBAL VIPASSANA PAGODA - is a Meditation Hall near Gorai, North-west of Mumbai. It is built on donated land on a peninsula between Gorai creek and the Arabian Sea. The pagoda is to serve as a monument of peace and harmony. The Global Vipassana Pagoda has been built out of gratitude to the Buddha, his teaching and the community of monks practicing his teaching. Its traditional Burmese design is an expression of gratitude towards the country of Myanmar for preserving the practice of Vipassana. The shape of the pagoda is a copy of the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, Myanmar. It was built combining ancient Indian and modern technology to enable it to last for a thousand years.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE GLOBAL VIPASSANA PAGODA Next to Esselworld, Gorai Village, Borivali West MUMBAI 400091 Tel: +91 22 3374 7501 Website: www.globalpagoda.org Days & Timings ≈ Monday to Sunday, 09.00 Hours till 19.00 Hours</p> <p>Dinner at Hotel Overnight.</p>										



Day 10	MUMBAI - SINGAPORE
Saturday 17 October 2015	<p>Breakfast at Hotel Check – Out : 12.00 noon</p> <p>Morning: Proceed for sightseeing of Mumbai & visits following monuments / sites :</p> <p>① Gateway of India - is one of the architectural marvel of the country, located on the shores of Arabian Sea & is also an important landmark of the city. ② Chowpatty Beach - situated on north of Marine Drive. Drive past ③ Marine Drive - this sweeping Queen's Necklace, flickering with a thousand lights at night turns into the main thoroughfare linking Malabar Hill. ④ Mumbai High Court (entry restricted) - was an important seat of legal and judicial jurisprudence, right from 1672. ⑤ University Building (entry restricted) - reflects the rich architecture and historicity of the city. ⑥ Victoria Terminus Building - The Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, formerly known as Victoria terminus in Mumbai, is an outstanding example of Victorian gothic revival architecture in India, blended with themes deriving from India traditional architecture. ⑦ Mani Bhavan - Where the father of the nation resided for 15 years. ⑧ Hanging Gardens - Laid out in 1881 on top of a reservoir which supplies water to many parts of the city, the Hanging Gardens is situated on Malabar Hill.</p> <p>Lunch at Local Restaurant Rest of the day Free for independent activities like shopping till departure etc.</p> <p>Early Dinner at Local Restaurant near Airport Later transfer to Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport to fly back to home.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>19 : 45 Hours ⇒ Check – in at International Airport Terminal 23 : 45 Hours ⇒ Depart by Singapore Airlines SQ 423</p> </div> <p>Overnight on board.</p>
Day 11	ARRIVE SINGAPORE
Sunday 18 October 2015	<p>07:35 Hours ⇒ arrival in Singapore. On arrival, proceed to Home.</p>



MUMBAI- earlier known as Bombay, the most modern city in India, it captures the spirit of the changing pace set by liberalization and modernization. Once a cluster of seven islands, Mumbai was presented to King Charles II in 1661 as part of the dowry when he married Princess Catherine de Braganza of Portugal. Mumbai city is known as the business capital of India, it being the country's principal financial and communications centre. The city was called Bombay for much of the last four hundred years. The origin of the name is obscure, but is often said to come from the Portuguese phrase bom bahia meaning "good bay".

TOUR ENDS HERE

Check – in & Check Out Timings at Hotel	12 : 00 Noon (12:00 Hours)	
Reporting Time at Railway Station	30 - 40 minutes prior to scheduled departure of Train	
Reporting Time at Airport →	For Domestic Flight	2 Hours prior to scheduled departure of Domestic flight
	For International Flight	3½ - 4 Hours prior to scheduled departure of International flight