



GOLDEN EAGLE LUXURY TRAINS

VOYAGES OF A LIFETIME BY PRIVATE TRAIN™



MADRAS MAIL

ON BOARD THE DECCAN ODYSSEY
2019 - 2020



GOLDEN EAGLE





GOLDEN EAGLE

Since launching as GW Travel in 1989, we have developed a whole range of fully escorted rail cruises across Europe, Asia, Africa and North America, carrying many thousands of delighted passengers.

As we celebrate our 30th year of rail operation in 2019, I am delighted that we are returning as a company to offering private rail tours across India for the first time since 2012. I have derived enormous pleasure over the last thirty years developing new and pioneering itineraries and India is no exception and, without doubt, one of my favourite destinations to visit by train. For 2019-2020 we have chartered the Deccan Odyssey private train and devised a series of our own unique and exclusive itineraries that extend the boundaries of luxury train travel in India.



so we have added further departures for this tour in both December 2019 and February 2020.

In addition I am delighted to announce the launch of the President's Tour for 2019 which will be the inaugural Madras Mail tour in December as we travel on the Deccan Odyssey into new territory

from Mumbai south through the exotic coastal states of Goa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu before reaching Hyderabad and culminating in a stay at the stunning Taj Falaknuma hotel where we will be hosting a Farewell Gala Dinner in the spectacular 101 Dining Hall to celebrate 30 years of delivering unforgettable travel experiences. I hope that you can join me on what promises to be an incredible journey of discovery and celebration.

The announcement of our first departure in February 2019 of the Darjeeling Mail, a journey from Mumbai across Central India to Kolkata in West Bengal, proved enormously successful and sold out in a matter of weeks

TIM LITTLER

President & Founder

Golden Eagle Luxury Trains Limited



MADRAS MAIL

MUMBAI (BOMBAY) - GOA - OOTY - KOCHI (COCHIN) - TRIVANDRUM - KANYAKUMARI - MADURAI
PONDICHERRY - CHENNAI (MADRAS) - HYDERABAD

Vibrant cities, immaculate beaches, rich cultural heritage, peaceful backwaters,
standing in contrast with rolling foothills and innumerable ancient
monuments – all make Southern India a fascinating travel destination.

Join our President and Founder Tim Littler on the 2019 'President's Tour' as we celebrate our
company's 30th Anniversary of providing stunning rail experiences!

Carefully designed to take in the best of Southern India, the Madras Mail covers everything from
India's most important cities to spectacular World Heritage Sites and stunning coastlines. The gateways
of Mumbai (Bombay) and Chennai (Madras) are key ports of call. They open the door to a more
tropical India, slower, tranquil and even more exotic.

TOUR SCHEDULE

5 December *to*
19 December, 2019

22 October *to*
5 November, 2020

DAILY TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1	Mumbai	DAY 7	Trivandrum and	DAY 12	Chennai
DAY 2	Mumbai		Kanyakumari	DAY 13	Chennai to
DAY 3	Mumbai	DAY 8	Madurai		Hyderabad
DAY 4	Goa	DAY 9	Pondicherry	DAY 14	Hyderabad
DAY 5	Ooty	DAY 10	Chennai (Madras)	DAY 14	Hyderabad
DAY 6	Kochi (Cochin)	DAY 11	Chennai		



MUMBAI

MAHARASHTRA

Your voyage of discovery begins at Mumbai Airport, where you will be met and transferred to the five-star Taj Mahal Hotel, conveniently located at 'The Gateway of India' for a luxurious two-night stay. (Meals today - own arrangements)

MUMBAI

MAHARASHTRA

This morning we take a short cruise, weather permitting, to Elephanta Island, a lush island densely wooded with palm, mango and tamarind trees. The atmospheric and fascinating cave complex, which dates back to the 3rd – 5th century, was designed to honour the life of Lord Shiva, one of the most auspicious Hindu gods and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We return to the city for lunch at the famous seafood Trishna restaurant and in the afternoon you are free to explore Mumbai independently or visit one of the colourful local markets. In the evening a welcome drinks reception is followed by dinner at your hotel where you can get to know your fellow travellers who will share this remarkable Indian odyssey.

DAY
1

MUMBAI

MAHARASHTRA

DAY
3

This morning we visit the 'Dhobi Ghats', an intriguing outdoor laundry. The dhobi is a traditional laundryman who collects your dirty linen, washes it and returns it neatly pressed. The Ghats are the laundries where they practice this historic tradition. Our tour then takes in Fort Bombay and Gandhi's House, now turned into a fascinating museum depicting his inspirational life.

Mid-afternoon sees us boarding our private train, the *Deccan Odyssey*, a perfect way to experience the colour, character and amazing diversity of India. Settle into your beautifully appointed cabin and enjoy the hospitable atmosphere of the Bar Car before experiencing fine Indian or western cuisine in one of the restaurant cars.

An all-day option prior to boarding the *Deccan Odyssey* is to take the 100-year old line from Neral to the hill station of Matheran (at 2,500 feet or 800 metres), 2 hours drive south of Mumbai. As the little train climbs up into the clear mountain air one can view the scenic vista of hills and plains below. The total lack of motorised traffic at Matheran makes it an unusual and peaceful retreat. (Guests will then join the *Deccan Odyssey* at Pavel Junction after descending from Matheran).



OLD GOA

GOA

DAY
4

Goa, renowned for its beaches, temples and world heritage architecture, was the capital of the Portuguese Empire in the east and displays much of this heritage in its architecture today. We take a morning tour to view Basilica De Bom Jesus and Sé Cathedral of Santa Catarina, a towering white structure with a grand baroque interior and the most imposing church in Old Goa.



OOTY

TAMIL NADU

DAY
5

The Nilgiri Mountain Railway, a World Heritage Site, starts from the town of Mettupalayam and takes us on a journey full of twists and turns.

This narrow gauge steam train ascends 30kms on India's only Rack and Pinion Railway with gradients as steep as 1:12 to the town of Coonor, from where for the final 16kms the train picks up speed



on its way to the hill resort at Ooty at 7,228 feet (2,225 metres) famous for its pretty cottages and beautiful Botanical Gardens.

The steam-hauled 'Toy Train' heads through tea and coffee plantations and forest clad hills and with no less than 16 tunnels and tall bridges along with the breathtaking views make a journey to Ooty a delightful experience!





KOCHI (COCHIN)

KERALA

DAY
6

Kochi's beautiful natural harbour and scenic backwaters has meant its history has been rich and varied. The British, Arabs, Portuguese, Dutch and Chinese have all left indelible marks on the architectural development of this city.

We will visit the Dutch Palace and the Jewish Synagogue and then see the Giant Chinese fishing nets that billow from massive teak



and bamboo poles which dot the entrance to the harbour and are still in use today.

The day ends in a visit to the 500-year old Fort Kochi where we will walk through the historical Dutch and Portuguese buildings.

In the evening there is the opportunity to witness a Kathakali Dance performance where the dancers are elaborately made up with paint and masks accompanied by drummers and musicians as they act out a dance drama.



TRIVANDRUM & KANYAKUMARI

KERALA & TAMIL NADU

DAY
7

The *Deccan Odyssey* arrives in Trivandrum in the early morning. After breakfast we visit the Napier Museum and the dominating Padmanabhaswamy Hindu Temple. Following lunch, we head to Kanyakumari which is mainland India's southernmost point, where the three seas - Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea & Bay of Bengal - meet and where the shore temple to the Virgin Goddess Kanyakumari stands.







MADURAI

TAMIL NADU

DAY
8

One of the oldest cities in India situated on the River Vaigai, the Temple City of Madurai was the capital of the Pandya Kingdom, but it was during the reign of the Nayaks that the magnificent Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple was constructed, which is one of India's greatest cultural and architectural landmarks. In the evening we will return to the temple to witness a Hindu ritual, an Aarti Ceremony before we continue our journey towards Chennai (Madras).

PONDICHERRY

INDIAN UNION TERRITORY OF PUDUCHERRY

DAY
9

Pondicherry, located on the Bay of Bengal, is the former capital of the French territories in India. To this day there remains a rich French cultural heritage including the French language being widely spoken. Landmarks include Raj Nivas, the residence of the Lt Governor of Pondicherry - a handsome 200-year old building which faces Government Park with its paths and lawns, fountains and sculptures as well as the wide and vibrant beaches and beautiful promenades.

Tonight, we have our final dinner aboard the *Deccan Odyssey*.

CHENNAI (MADRAS)

TAMIL NADU

DAY
10

Chennai (formerly known as Madras), the capital of Tamil Nadu, is located on the legendary Coromandel Coast with a marvellous tradition of music and dance. This city of 4 million people has a pronounced colonial heritage dating back to the 17th century when the British East India Company built a small fort on the banks of the Cooum River and called it Fort St. George.

We arrive in Chennai in the morning where we tour the highlights of the city including Fort St. George and the National Art Gallery. We also make a visit to the 16th century San Thome Basilica, built over the tomb of Thomas Didymus, one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. He is informally referred to as 'Doubting Thomas' because he doubted Jesus' resurrection when first told.

This evening transfer to our luxurious beachfront property of the Taj Fisherman's Cove Resort & Spa for a three-night stay. The Fisherman's Cove, once an impressive Dutch Fort, is now one of the finest beach resorts in Southern India. It is located on the beautiful white sandy beach of Covelong Beach, lapped by the waters from the Bay of Bengal and offers a perfect setting for relaxation at the end of your rail journey through Southern India.



CHENNAI

TAMIL NADU



CHENNAI

TAMIL NADU



Today there is the option to visit Mahabalipuram, a beautiful coastal resort classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The rock cut temples and caves situated here are amongst the finest in the world and originated between 7th and 9th century.

The highlight is a visit to the Shore Temple, which is renowned for its intricate carvings and skilled craftsmanship and is one of the oldest temples in southern India.

We enjoy our final day at leisure in Chennai. Enjoy time relaxing in the lush landscaped gardens of the hotel or take one of the many scenic walkways that lead to Covelong Beach and the Bay of Bengal. Perhaps make time also to rejuvenate yourself with a signature spa treatment from the hotel's excellent Jiva Spa.



CHENNAI TO HYDERABAD

TAMIL NADU to TELANGANA

DAY
13

Today we travel by air from Chennai to Hyderabad, our final destination of the tour, and stay for two nights at the luxury Taj Falaknuma Palace.

Elevated 2,000 feet above Hyderabad this luxurious 5-star property features a blend of colonial and Indian designs. It houses a heritage walk with beautifully crafted objects from the world over and a first-rate spa.

Built in 1894, it is the former palace of the Nizam, rumoured to be the richest man in the world at one time. Overlooking the twinkling City of Pearls, this enchanting palace exudes romance and grandeur that takes you back to when the Nizam ruled Hyderabad.



HYDERABAD

TELANGANA

DAY
14

Today we visit Golconda Fort (Shepherd's Hill) which was the capital of ancient Kingdom of Golkonda and is situated 11km west of Hyderabad.

The city was founded in the 12th century by Kakatiya kings and the massive fort was later built under the reign of the Qutub Shahi Dynasty (c.1518–1687). The fort is a superb example of outstanding engineering and amazing architecture. Its system of acoustics is a big attraction - the sound of clapping at the entrance can be heard at 'Bala Hissar' - the highest point and almost a kilometre away.

From here we travel to the Qutub Shahi Tombs. Located north of the Golconda Fort, the tombs represent the most authentic and majestic display of the Qutub Shahi dynasty's architectural tradition.

We return to the city and visit Charminar. Sultan Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the fifth ruler of the Qutb Shahi dynasty, built Charminar in 1591AD, shortly after he had shifted his capital from Golkonda to what is now known as Hyderabad. He built this famous structure to commemorate the elimination of a

plague epidemic from this city. He is said to have prayed for the end of a plague that was ravaging his city and vowed to build a masjid (mosque) at the very place where he was praying.

In the evening we say our goodbyes to our fellow passengers at a Gala Farewell Dinner in the most magnificent of venues, the 101 Dining Hall of the Taj Falaknuma Palace.

HYDERABAD

TELANGANA

DAY
15

Airport transfers are included for all guests.







GOLDEN EAGLE

DECCAN ODYSSEY



To travel aboard the Deccan Odyssey is to experience the finest traditions of rail travel in a train specially built to cater for the demands of today's most discerning traveller.

On board, the spacious and comfortable cabins, the exceptionally high-quality dining and the attention to detail of the staff combine to create what is effectively a rolling luxury hotel.



Fully air-conditioned, the Deccan Odyssey offers a choice of Deluxe Class en-suite cabins with either twin or double beds – or Presidential Suites, in which each cabin has a separate sitting room and two bathrooms. All the accommodation is spacious, thanks to the generous proportions of the country's broad gauge railway.

Our train includes two splendid Restaurant Cars, offering a wonderful variety of international cuisine. Prepared and served with the highest attention to detail, the Indian and international food offered here is to the highest culinary standards. Traditionally decorated, these beautifully designed cars offer a superb and relaxed setting in which to enjoy your meals and watch India's remarkable scenery unfold.

Another highlight is the splendidly appointed Lounge Car, which includes a well-stocked bar offering the perfect surroundings for a quiet drink with your fellow passengers.

There is a dedicated Spa Car where passengers can enjoy a traditional Ayurvedic massage, enjoy the heat of the sauna, visit the on board hairdressing salon, or for those with a more energetic disposition work out in the gym while the train is underway.

Alternatively, you can relax in the Reception Car which has a library and reading area, a fully-equipped business centre and a large plasma screen.



GOLDEN EAGLE

PRESIDENTIAL SUITES



PRESIDENTIAL SUITE SPECIFICATION

- Sleeps 2 in King Size bed
- 2 En-suite bathrooms with separate shower
- Air-conditioned throughout
- Television screen with USB and HDMI ports
- Hairdryer
- Separate lounge/seating area with writing desk
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water in cabin
- Laundry Service available for a fee

PRESIDENTIAL SUITE DIMENSIONS

CABIN AREA	191sq ft (18sq m)
CABIN LENGTH	27ft 7ins (8.4m)
CABIN WIDTH	7ft 7ins (2.3m)
DOUBLE BED WIDTH	5ft 0ins (1.5m)
BED LENGTH	6ft 5ins (2.0m)
CABINS PER CAR	2



Book a Presidential Suite and also **receive room upgrades at each hotel** within the itineraries.



GOLDEN EAGLE

DELUXE CLASS



DELUXE CLASS SPECIFICATION

- Sleeps 2 in Twin Bed or Queen Size Bed
- En-suite bathroom with separate shower
- Air-conditioned throughout
- Hairdryer
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water in cabin
- Laundry Service available for a fee

DELUXE CLASS DIMENSIONS

CABIN AREA	95sq ft (9sq m)
CABIN LENGTH	13ft 0ins (3.97m)
CABIN WIDTH	7ft 7ins (2.3m)
BED WIDTH TWIN	3ft 0ins (0.9m)
DOUBLE BED WIDTH	5ft 0ins (1.5m)
BED LENGTH	6ft 5ins (2.0m)
CABINS PER CAR	4

2019 PRICES

GBP (£)	Deluxe Class		Presidential Class	
	Twin (£)	Single (£)	Twin (£)	Single (£)
Dec 5 - Dec 19	11,795	17,695	23,595	35,395
Deposit	POA		POA	

2020 PRICES

GBP (£)	Deluxe Class		Presidential Class	
	Twin (£)	Single (£)	Twin (£)	Single (£)
Oct 22 - Nov 5	11,795	17,695	23,595	35,395
Deposit	POA		POA	

TOUR INCLUDES

As far as possible our tours are all inclusive with no hidden extras. What follows are those elements which are included in the tour price. The only extra items you will need to budget for include personal expenses such as international and internal flights (unless part of the itinerary), visa costs, travel insurance, drinks from the Bar Lounge Car and laundry.

Experienced Tour Managers

Our experienced tour managers and their assistants are selected for their travel knowledge and their linguistic and organisational abilities allowing you to relax and enjoy your rail cruise. We receive exceptional passenger comments about our Tour Managers and their aim is to ensure you enjoy every minute of your holiday.

Arrival and Departure Transfers

Arrival and departure transfers are included.

Hotel and On Board Accommodation

Although you will spend much of your time sightseeing or relaxing in the train's public areas, you will find your hotel room or cabin a welcome retreat at the end of a rewarding day. All hotels are of 5 star standard or, in certain locations, the best available. Room upgrades are available on request and at extra cost.

Welcome and Farewell Dinners

Each tour begins with a Welcome Dinner, an ideal opportunity to get to know your fellow passengers; for the Tour Manager to brief you on the trip; and introduce you to the Golden Eagle Luxury Trains team and the Tour Doctor. The Farewell Dinner is the perfect end to your adventure by private train where you can relive the journey and look ahead to future tours.

Route Guide, Itinerary and Information Pack

When you board the train there will be a brochure in your cabin detailing more about your journey and the places en-route. Our Tour Manager will organise a programme of briefings on the cities or places we visit and, each evening, will issue a programme for the next day's touring schedule.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Daily

All departures feature one or two uniquely designed restaurant cars where you can enjoy the excellent waiter-served food and wine. Several times during the tour we will also sample authentic local cuisine off the train.

Drinks with Meals and from the Bar Lounge Car

A generous drinks allowance is included with lunch and dinner.

On Board Service

You can expect service which is attentive, friendly and unintrusive. Your car attendants provide housekeeping and bedding turndown services, with one attendant always on duty to assist you and to ensure you are comfortable in your cabin. Complimentary tea, coffee and bottle drinking water are available in your cabin.

Guided Off-Train Excursions

The history and culture of the places we visit on our rail cruises will come alive through our expert local guides. All our tours include a wide-ranging sightseeing schedule to make the most of the time you have off the train and bring you closer to the culture, people and history of your destinations. We believe it is the special little touches that help create magical memories.

Personal Headsets

On all the off-train excursions, to enhance your enjoyment and comprehension of the places you visit, you will be provided with a lightweight personal headset on which to listen to your tour guide as you take in the sights. So you do not need to worry about missing any of the interesting details on your excursions.

On Board Doctor and Medical Facilities

To give you peace of mind our tours are typically accompanied by a doctor who travels with us for the entire journey; so you can rest assured that medical assistance is always available. On call 24 hours a day, the doctor is on hand to give primary care as required. Normally, the doctor will be English speaking and be registered with the General Medical Council in the UK.

Porterage

As you only have to unpack once, your luggage and belongings will stay with you on the train throughout the journey but, wherever necessary, porterage is included between the hotel and stations.

All Gratuities

You will not have to worry about tipping on and off the train on your rail journey with Golden Eagle Luxury Trains as all gratuities are included in the tour price.

FOR RESERVATIONS AND ENQUIRIES
CALL LUXURY TRAINS
TEL : 0333 405 0192