



Education Journey to Mumbai, Cochin & Kumarakom

India

11 days / 8 nights

December 5-15, 2016

\$5,799 (Based on double occupancy)

Enjoy the unique culture and traditions of India while you spend time with the locals. This adventure takes you throughout Southern India, taking advantage of the fabulous December weather!

BOOK NOW 888.747.7501

India Highlights

- ✓ 11 days & 8 nights
- ✓ Learn about the art and culture of India interspersed with interaction with **local education professionals**
- ✓ Witness the stylized classical Indian dance-drama of **Kathakali** (roots dating back 1500 years to ritual folk dances)
- ✓ Delight in a **backwater cruise** along a network of canals lined with village homes and coconut trees in Kumarakom
- ✓ **Accompanying guest program** available on this itinerary

Community Connections

- ✓ Giving back and engaging with the community is an important part of your journey. You will have an opportunity to **volunteer and engage with the local families**.
- ✓ We are working with local staff in to provide hands-on opportunities to share and give back to the local people. *The goal is to provide a needed service in a local community.*

Education Interaction

- ✓ Explore India's education infrastructure, especially as it relates to access to schooling
- ✓ Overview of the education systems and provision of funding at the local, central and state levels
- ✓ Examine the education and role expectations of teachers throughout the country
- ✓ See the impact of cultural traditions, beliefs, and social issues on education and training in India

What's Included:

- 5* accommodations
- All transportation and activities outlined in the itinerary
- Group transfers to and from the international airport
- International air to and from India (gateway city set tentatively out of Newark)
- Local English speaking guide
- Meals as mentioned and most tips

Not Included:

- Personal expenses at the hotel
- Meals not specified
- Tips for national guide
- Passport renewal or issuance
- Domestic flight to gateway city
- Departure taxes if applicable
- Cost of your tourist visa



📍 Newark (EWR) International Airport

DAY 1

Depart for India today

Depart from Newark today and make your way to India. The stunning beauty and friendly people alone are worth a visit!

India represents diversity in all its forms: peoples, religions, traditions, clothing, dialects, and habits. Even India's landscape varies wildly, ranging from high peaks to rolling plains to coasts on three seas. This fascinating country, linking East Asia and Europe but belonging to neither, exudes a sense of mystery.

📍 Mumbai, India

DAY 2

Arrival in Mumbai (Bombay)

Arrive in Mumbai, India this evening.

Upon arrival and after clearing customs procedures the group will be met by your national guide and transferred to your local hotel for check in. Relax this evening and settle into your lovely hotel.

Depending on your arrival time, dinner will be on your own this evening (usually provided in flight). Your hotel can assist with currency exchange.

Overnight: Trident Nariman Point (or similar)

Included meals: N/A



📍 Mumbai, India

DAY 3

Cultural program in Mumbai

Please Note: Breakfast is included daily in your program.

All travelers will gather this morning with your national guide and receive further information on the program and today's activities.

Explore the unique and defining characteristics of **Mumbai** today with a visit to the **Gateway of India**, Mumbai's principal landmark, and explore the **Hanging Gardens** on the slopes of Malabar Hills late this morning.

After lunch on your own, continue your explorations with a visit to the **Prince of Wales Museum** and **Mani Bhavan**, the memorial built for Mahatma Gandhi. Learn about the history of the city and the sites you are exploring with your guide.

This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner with fellow travelers. You will also watch a Bollywood movie, followed by an informal discussion on India's booming movie industry and its history.

Overnight: Trident Nariman Point (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner



INTRODUCTION TO EDUCATION | DAY-BY-DAY

📍 Mumbai, India

DAY 4

Professional program in Mumbai

Today the professional members of the group will meet with **professional counterparts** in Mumbai to learn about India's education system.

This may include meetings with **local public and private schools**, to engage with their staff, tour the facilities and have a chance to ask questions of interest to each traveler.

The professional focus of this delegation will be finalized after enrollment has concluded and will be customized to fit the needs of the professionals enrolled on the journey. Every effort will be made to incorporate items of interest to all.

Lunch will be provided this afternoon at a local restaurant.

Guest program:

Also known as Mani Bhavan, the Gandhi Museum resides in the simple two-story building that served as Mahatma Gandhi's Bombay headquarters from 1917 to 1934. This morning you will explore the library of approximately 50,000 books and periodicals, Gandhi's preserved rooms on the second floor, and a picture gallery documenting important events in his life. Spend the rest of the afternoon further exploring the Keneseth Eliyahoo Synagogue and the National Gallery of Modern Art. Opened to the public in 1996, the gallery hosts various exhibitions and art collections of famous artists, sculptors and different civilizations.

Dinner is by individual arrangement (own expense) this evening.

Overnight: Trident Nariman Point (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch



📍 Cochin, India

DAY 5

Fly to Cochin (Kochi)

Today the group will say farewell to Mumbai and fly to **Cochin**. Cochin, also known as Ernakulam, is the commercial capital of the State of Kerala. The district took its form on April 1, 1958, by carving out the areas of Travancore, Kochi and Malabar kingdoms. The word Ernakulam was derived from a Tamil word Eranarkulam which means "Lord Shiva's abode."

Lunch is on your own this afternoon.

This afternoon the group will have a chance to give back to the local community while **visiting a rural school**. Engage with the staff and students and **help teach a class**, assist with chores at the school and spend time getting to know the daily challenges and successes of the local people.

This evening, enjoy a **sunset cruise on the harbor**.

Dinner will be provided this evening.

Overnight: Crowne Plaza (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner



📍 Cochin, India

DAY 6

Explore Cochin

Today you will take a tour of Kochi, beginning with **St. Francis Church**. Located at Fort Kochi, this Protestant church was originally built by the Portuguese in 1510 AD and is believed to be the oldest church built by the Europeans in India.

A trip through the **Dutch Palace** provides a view of 17th century frescoes, court attire and other artefacts. It is also known as Mattancherry Palace, built by the Portuguese and presented to the Raja of Kochi in 1555 A.D. It acquired the present name after 1663 when the Dutch carried out extensions and repairs in the palace. It is interesting to note that at no time did the Portuguese or Dutch actually stay here. Its interiors are decorated with murals from the Ramayana and there are some lively displays of royal costumes and palanquins.

Later visit the **Chinese fishing net** area and witness the spectacular **Kathakali dance drama**, a unique combination of literature, music, painting, acting and dance. Dancers wear extraordinary makeup, headdresses, and costumes meant to raise the participants above the level of mere mortals, allowing them to transport the audience to a world of wonders.

Overnight: Crowne Plaza (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch

📍 Cochin, India

DAY 7

Morning meeting

After breakfast, continue your professional exchange with staff at a **local university or teacher training facility** to discuss the modern education system and teacher training in the region.

This afternoon you will talk with local officials from the **Kerala Education Department** (or similar). Under various articles of the Indian Constitution, free and compulsory education is provided as a fundamental right to children between the ages of 6 and 14. The importance and antiquity of education in Kerala is underscored by the state's ranking as among the most literate in the country. The local dynastic precursors of modern-day Kerala - primarily the Travancore Royal Family, the Christian missionaries, The Nair Service Society, Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (SNDP Yogam) and Muslim Educational Society (MES) - made significant contributions to the progress of education in Kerala.

Guest program:

Today guests will go for a half day visit to witness a unique community based initiative to preserve and conserve the unique saline-tolerant strain of rice, threatened by extinction. In a stunning backwater setting, this tour gives an opportunity to understand one of the oldest known crops cultivated through a symbiotic farming tradition. It's known for its tolerance to salinity and hence positioned as a climate change resistant food. Trip highlight involves interaction with farmers and community leaders who sustain the tradition against many constraints. Visit concludes with a brief food tasting session before an afternoon free to explore the local markets.

Enjoy **dinner with a local family**.

Overnight: Crowne Plaza (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner



📍 Kumarakom, India

DAY 8

Transfer to Kumarakom

This morning, participate in a **yoga and meditation** session (optional) at your hotel.

Later embark on your four-hour journey to **Kumarakom**, a cluster of little islands on Vembanad Lake. Kumarakom captures the essence of Kerala in a unique and lovely setting. *Conde Nast Traveler* rated Kumarakom among the 25 best getaways in the world!

Lunch will be provided this afternoon.

After arrival and hotel check-in, the remainder of the day is free, perhaps to experience Ayurveda rejuvenation therapy. Ayurveda literally means the science of life (Ayur = Life, Veda = Science). It is an ancient medical science which was developed in India thousands of years ago. The ancient Vedic literature by sages has clearly laid out instructions to maintain health as well as fighting illness through therapies, massages, herbal medicines, diet control and exercise.

This evening dinner is on your own at the hotel or a local restaurant.

Overnight: Coconut Lagoon (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch



📍 Kumarakom, India

DAY 9

Morning is at leisure

This afternoon, relax on a delightful **backwater cruise** along a network of canals, lined with village homes and coconut trees, to get a different perspective on the lifestyles of the local people.

Enjoy a farewell dinner with your fellow travelers as you enjoy one last group dinner.

Overnight: Coconut Lagoon (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

📍 Mumbai, India

DAY 10

Depart

Say farewell to Kumarakom and travel back to Cochin this morning via bus. Lunch is by individual arrangement this afternoon.


Fly from Cochin to Mumbai where you will connect with your international flights back home.

Arrival will be the following morning back in Newark.

Overnight: N/A

Included meals: Breakfast



 Mumbai, India


Trident Nariman Point, Mumbai

CR 2 Nariman Point, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Road,
Mumbai, Maharashtra 400021, India

Telephone: +91-226-632-4343

<http://www.tridenthotels.com/hotels-in-mumbai-nariman-point>



 Cochin, India


Crowne Plaza, Kochi

XI/641A, Kundanoor Junction, NH 47 Bypass, Maradu
Kochi, Kerala 682304, India

Telephone: +91-484-286-5000

<http://www.crowneplaza.hotelsgroup.in/crowne-plaza-kochi.html>



 Kumarakom, India

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<http://www.cghearth.com/coconut-lagoon>

