

## THE BEST OF EAST INDIA

### **DAY 01**

***Arrive Kolkata by International Flight.***



**WELCOME TO INDIA** – One Nation, countless destinations. A land of rich heritage that's ancient. The mystique of India, its history of 5000 years, philosophy, religions, fabulous historical monuments all add to its bewildering diversity to create a unique and colorful mosaic. This is the wonder that is India, come, enjoy and experience it.

Reception upon arrival at the International airport and transfer to **HOTEL PEERLESS INN\*\*\*\***

**Kolkata (Calcutta)** – The capital of West Bengal, is situated along the banks of the Hooghly river. Calcutta's, 300 years history traces to the landing of Robert Clive on the banks of the Hooghly. Calcutta now called "Kolkata" was the first headquarters of the East India Company – the British trading establishment which later formed the foothold of the British Empire in this country. Kolkata as an important historical trading port attracted several communities and one can still see the influence of the Chinese, Jewish and Armenian communities.

***Overnight stay at Hotel.***

### **DAY 02** **KOLKATA**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning, proceed for a sightseeing tour of Kolkata. The Tour begins from the Victoria Memorial, the best introduction to that era, foundation laid in 1906 by The Prince of Wales (later King George V) and opened in 1921 by the Duke of Windsor. Visit the Indian museum (closed on Mondays), built in 1875, its certainly the largest and probably the best museum in India and one of the best in Asia, displaying priceless relics of ancient civilizations. Other attractions include St. Paul's Cathedral, built between 1839 and 1847 and the British legacy - Fort William completed in 1781. Drive past the Raj Bhawan, built in 1799 and 1805 by Marquis Wellesley and High Court completed in 1872, has a tower (55 mts) high which was copied from the Stadhuis at Ypres, Belgium.



In the afternoon visit "The Missionaries of Charity", founded by Mother Teresa in 1950, home for old people, children and all human beings.

***Overnight stay at Hotel.***

## DAY 03 KOLKATA-BAGDOGRA-DARJEELING

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer from hotel to the airport in time for:

Leave: Kolkatta at 1220 hours by 9W-2480  
Arrive: Bagdogra at 1320 hours

Reception upon arrival at the airport and drive to Darjeeling (90 kms/3 hours).

On arrival check-in at: **HOTEL WINDAMERE (HERITAGE)**

*Overnight stay at Hotel.*

## DAY 04 DARJEELING

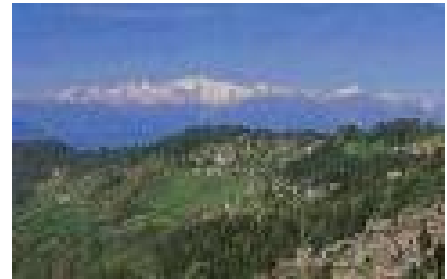


Early morning (at 0400 hrs), drive to Tiger Hill from where one can get a glimpse of a spectacular sun rise over the snowcapped peaks of the Himalayas. On a clear day, even Mount Everest is visible. While driving back to the hotel, visit the Tibetan Ghoom Monastery. This is probably the most famous monastery in Darjeeling and it enshrines an image of Maitreya Buddha (the coming Buddha).

**(Note: A view of Mount Everest and Mount Kanchenjunga can be impacted by weather conditions).**

Breakfast at the hotel.

After breakfast, proceed for a sightseeing tour of Darjeeling. The sightseeing covers Lepong village, which was the highest race course in the World, the Mountaineering Institute (closed on Thursdays), the house of Tensing Norgay (the Everest hero) and the Botanical Gardens, a representative collection of Himalayan plants, flowers and orchids.



Afternoon at leisure.

*Overnight stay at Hotel.*

## DAY 05 DARJEELING-GANGTOK

Breakfast at the hotel.



Drive from Darjeeling to Gangtok (125 kms /6 hours) enroute visiting the largest monastery of the area, Rumtek. Belonging to the Kargyudppa Sect of Tibetan Buddhism, this monastery is also the seat of His Holiness the Late Gyalwa Karmappa, who has the largest following in the west. During the return journey, visit the Government Institute of Tibetology.

On arrival check-in at: **HOTEL NORKILL \*\*\***

Afternoon, sightseeing tour of Gangtok, the capital and principal town of Sikkim. This little town is tucked away in the clouds, spread out on a ridge, 5000 ft above sea level. Visit the Government Cottage Industry (closed on Sundays), the Deer Park, Tashiling, the Enchey Monastery & the market.



**Overnight stay at Hotel.**

## **DAY 06** **GANGTOK-KALIMPONG**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Drive from Gangtok to Kalimpong (80 kms/3 hours)



On arrival check-in at: **HOTEL SILVER OAKS \*\*\***

Afternoon, sightseeing tour of Kalimpong. Visit Zang-dog-phalri-Fo-brang Monastery, a Gompa built with facilities for debating, thanka painting etc. Also, visit the Tirpai Monastery, Flower Nursery & Market.

**Overnight stay at Hotel.**

## **DAY 07** **KALIMPONG-BAGDOGRA-KOLKATA-BHUBANESHWAR**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Drive from Kalimpong to Bagdogra (79 kms/3 hours) airport in time to board flight for Kolkata.

Leave: Bagdogra at 1620 hours by IT-2532  
Arrive: Kolkata at 1805 hours

Connect flight for Bhubaneswar.

Leave: Kolkata at 1840 hours by IT-2503  
Arrive: Bhubaneswar at 1950 hours

Reception upon arrival at the airport and transfer to **HOTEL TRIDENT\*\*\*\*\***

**Bhubaneswar** – the capital of Orissa, showcases unique religious architecture, in its numerous Hindu temples dating back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D. It is the capital of the Kalinga empire with a history over 2000 years. Orissa is also home to unique art forms of paintings and fabric printing.

**Overnight stay at Hotel.**

## **DAY 08** **BHUBANESHWAR**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning, sightseeing tour of Bhubaneswar: the tour starts from the great Lingaraja temple, dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> century A.D., which soars above the city and dominates the landscape. The Mukteswara Temple, a 10<sup>th</sup> century gem of a temple, is richly sculpted with later phases of the Kalinga school of temple architecture. The temple gateway is an arched masterpiece with excellent decorative details engraved on the archway. Later visit the 11<sup>th</sup> century Raja Rani Temple set in picturesque surroundings, famous for its sculptural excellence. The Parasurameswara Temple built in 650 A.D. and the Vaital Temple devoted to Tantric Cults are also worth a visit.

**Overnight stay at Hotel.**



## **DAY 09** **BHUBANESHWAR-PURI**

Breakfast at the hotel.

After breakfast, drive from Bhubaneswar to Puri (63 kms/1.5 hours).

On arrival check-in at: **HOTEL MAYFAIR \*\*\*+**



Afternoon visit Puri: Even before one enters the town of Puri, the 65 meter high Jagannath Temple makes its presence felt. It is a monument of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. with all the richness and plasticity of the Kalinga style of architecture. The main temple is framed within the huge compound and within its precincts are located the smaller temples of Goddess Vimala Laxmi, Vishnu and the Ananda Bazaar the biggest food market of the world. Entry is restricted only to Hindus but all tourists can have a view from a library situated right opposite the Temple, from its top floor. Another facet of the city's attraction is the colorful sunrise and sunset on miles of golden sand and pristine blue waters. The tour also includes a visit to the Gundecha Mandir, which is well known for its architectural beauty. Later drive past the grand road, called "Bada Dandda", which is also a shopper's stop for souvenirs and mementos.

**Overnight stay at Hotel.**

## **DAY 10** **PURI**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning visit Konark Sun Temple. The tour begins from Konark, the famous Sun temple, built by 1200 workmen over a period of 12 years. The temple resembles a chariot with 23 wheels pulled by seven straining horses, with a three tiered pyramidal roof, topped of by a final sphere made out in brilliant chronicle stone.

The temple represents the seven days of the week and the 24 hours of the day in its concept. Other attractions include the museum of the Archeological Survey of India, known for its rare collection of sculptures from the ruins of the temples. Later visit the beach for a glorious sunrise and glimpse of traditional fishing and continue the



tour to visit the Ramachandi temple located about 10 km along the beach on the banks of the river Kushabhadra.

Rest of the day free to relax on the beach.

*Overnight stay at Hotel.*

## **DAY 11**

### **PURI**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Full day free to relax on the beach.

*Overnight stay at Hotel.*

## **DAY 12**

### **PURI-BHUBANESHWAR-MUMBAI**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Drive from Puri to Bhubaneshwar (63 kms/1.5 hours) airport in time to board flight for Mumbai.

Leave: Bhubaneshwar at 1415 hours by IC-169

Arrive: Mumbai at 1615 hours

Reception upon arrival at the airport and transfer to **HOTEL TRIDENT \*\*\*\*\***

**Mumbai** : India's western gateway is Mumbai ,the capital of Maharashtra. The island of Mumbai defines itself straight from the dictionary –vibrant, vivid and electrifying. The city's rise from the dowry of a Portuguese queen (when Catherine of Braganza married England's Charles II in 1661) to the country's foremost sea port, commercial center and home to the worlds largest film industry, has been nothing short of meteoric. Mumbai, the economic powerhouse of India.

*Overnight stay at Hotel.*

## **DAY 13**

### **MUMBAI**

Breakfast at the hotel.



Morning, sightseeing tour of Mumbai. The tour begins at "The Gateway of India" Mumbai's foremost landmark overlooking the harbor, was conceived following the visit of King George V in 1911 and officially opened in 1924. A drive up to the Malabar Hill, to the hanging gardens, gives a panoramic view of the city and the Queens Necklace – the Marine Drive. The tour concludes with a drive through the Flora Fountain and Fort area and view the Gothic and Victorian style buildings. Visit the Victoria Terminus (now known as Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus) India's finest Gothic building and a bustling Railway Station. Continue drive around the Horniman Circle and visit the Town Hall, right besides the docks. . **Also visit the Mumbai residential**

**complex of Freddie Mercury -- Cushrow Baug, in Colaba Causeway.**

Afternoon at leisure.

*Overnight stay at Hotel.*

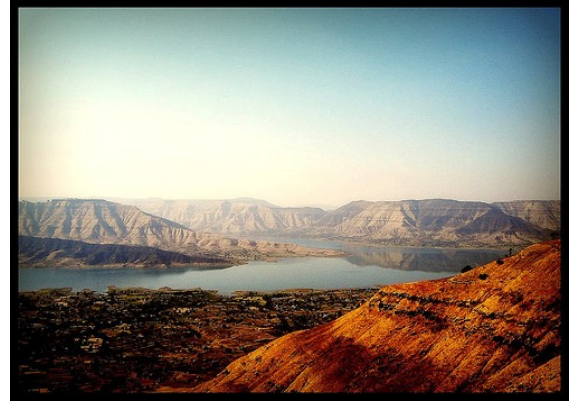
## **DAY 14**

### **MUMBAI-PUNE-PANCHGANI**

Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning drive to Panchgani (310 kms/7 hours) **enroute lunch at Farhang Irani's (Freddie's best friend and band member in school) 'Bounty Sizzler' Restaurant.**

Panchgani, the town in the midst of five hills, is an eternally beautiful hill station, a favourite escape clause for the Mumbai-weary. Panchgani is perennially fresh and inviting; its bracing climate complements the verdant surroundings. Flanked by tableland and craggy cliffs, Panchgani is 1334 m, just 38 m lower than Mahabaleshwar



On arrival check-in at: **HOTEL IL PALAZZO (HERITAGE)**

Afternoon visit Table Land and Bazaar.

**Overnight stay at Hotel.**

## **DAY 15**

### **PANCHGANI-MUMBAI-ABROAD**

Breakfast at the hotel.

**St.Peter's School Tour Schedule. Duration 4.5 hours:**

**0730 hrs** : The school tour guide will join the fans at the hotel to partake of breakfast at 7.30am.

**0830 hrs** :The tour transport leaves for school to commence the tour at 8.45 am.

Through an interesting commentary the fans will be conducted around the following places on the school's 60 acre lush campus.

Assembly Hall - St.Peter's Church - 'Hectics' Band Room - Music Room - Gymnasium - Art Room - Barber Shop - Tuck Shop - School Playgrounds ( 3 levels - Upper field - Middle Field - Lower field , which is overlooking the Sayadri mountain valley with a breathtaking view) - Classroom - Dormitories ( Rhodesia House - Albert House - Flora House - Lawrence Villa) - Hospital - Library - Computer Room ( although not around Freddie's time).

Fans go back to the Assembly Hall for a photo opportunity with Freddie's piano and take a look at the school merchandise on sale display.

**1215 hrs** - Fans assemble with the school boys in the porch outside the dining hall and go in single file into the dining hall for lunch with the boys & school staff - to the accompaniment of 'Queen' recorded music in the background and later , after lunch a 'live' performance of a Freddie song by the school band.

After lunch drive from Panchgani to Mumbai (240 kms/5 hours)

**Same night or early morning take the International Flight back home hopefully taking back cherished memories of Freddie's school & India.**

# MERCURY TRAVELS

Leave: Mumbai by International Flight

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**Validity : 05<sup>th</sup> Dec 2010 to 09<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011**

***(No tours accepted during St Peter's School Winter break for Christmas and New year between 05<sup>th</sup> December 2010 to 09<sup>th</sup> Jan 2011)***

**Cost per person (on DOB) : USD \$2790**

**Single room supplement : USD \$1495**

***Discounts may apply for Groups of 4 or more.***

**Air fare supplement for Kolkatta/Bagdogra/Kolkatta/Bhubaneshwar/Mumbai :USD \$690 per person**

**Cost includes:**

- Accommodation for 14 Nights on the basis of Continental Plan (Room + Breakfast) at all places as per the itinerary mentioned above except
  - At Panchgani which is on Breakfast and Dinner basis.
  - At Darjeeling , Gangtok and Kalimpong on Full board (Breakfast +Lunch +Dinner)
- Continental Lunch at **Farhang Irani's (Freddie's best friend and band member in school ) 'Bounty Sizzler ' Restaurant.**
- Lunch at St Peter's School in Panchgani .
- Please note the check-in time at all the hotels is 1400 Hours and check –out time is 1200 Hours.
- Arrival /departure transfer, sightseeing tours and surface journey by AC Indigo car for (02 pax),
- Services of Local English speaking Guide as per the itinerary mentioned above.
- Entrance Fees to the Monuments at all places as per the itinerary mentioned above.
- Assistance at the airport & hotels at the time of check-in & check –out
- All applicable taxes as on date

**Cost Excludes**

- Air Fare (Supplement given separately)
- Any meals apart from the one mentioned in the itinerary.
- Tips at the hotels /restaurants during the stay
- Nature of personal expenses such as telephone calls, laundry etc.
- Travel or Medical Insurance.
- Portages at the Airports and at the hotels at the time of Check – in & Check –out
- Tips to the local guide or Camera Fees at the monuments wherever applicable
- **Any services not mentioned in the inclusion**

**Important Notes:**

- Please take into account closure day(s) of monument(s) before you decide on a tour start date that will ensure viewing of all monument(s).
- Please advise full names of the clients along with the room configuration as same will be required by the hotel at the time of booking the accommodation.
- The above mentioned quotes are based on (Base Category) of room at all places, incase the clients wish to stay in higher category of room the same can be provided with additional supplement.

The logo for Mercury Travels features the company name in a bold, red, sans-serif font. Above the text is a thin, grey, curved line that arches over the letters, resembling a stylized horizon or a wing.

- The air fare mentioned above are based on the present rates floated by the airlines, once we receive go ahead from your end we will try to secure seats in NON REFUNDABLE fare which are quite lower than the rate of the day and published tariff. Please note the NON REFUNDABLE seats are subject to availability.

**Terms & Conditions:**

**TOUR PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS:** A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required to confirm your booking. Final payment is due 60 days prior to departure.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** If you must cancel for any reason, prior to the commencement of the tour the following cancellation penalties will apply:

Upto 60 days \$500 per person.

59-46 days \$800 per person.

45-16 days prior to departure 50% non-refundable

15 days or less NON-REFUNDABLE.

There will be no refund for no-shows.

**DOCUMENTATION:**

All non Indian passport holders need a valid Indian Visa from country of Origin. Passport must be valid for six months from the date of entry

**INSURANCE:**

We highly recommend Optional Comprehensive Insurance. This insurance covers hospital and medical insurance as well as baggage, flight and accident insurance. It also covers cancellation penalties if cancellation is due to medical reasons. Some limitations and exclusions may exist.