AURANGABAD CULTURAL - 2 Nights / 3 Days

Day	City	Time	Details
17th Sept' 06			
	Mumbai	PM	Depart for Aurangabad by 9W 3109 at 1825 hrs
	Aurangabad	PM	Arrive Aurangabad airport at 1925 hrs and Transfer to hotel. **Overnight: Hotel Taj Residency**
18th Sept' 06			
	"	AM	Early breakfast at hotel.
		AM	Depart for Ajanta caves.
		AM	Arrive at parking zone, here, you transfer into non-mechanised transport for the remaining 15 mins journey to the caves. On arrival, tour these I caves discovered as late as the 19th century by a party of British officers, which for long had lain buried in the debris of time. The caves survived hundreds of years in the Sahyadri hills to tell the story of a rich and glorious past from 200 BC to 650 AD. These 30 caves were built to offer seclusion to the Buddhist monks who lived, taught and performed rituals in the Chaityas and Viharas which were the seats of learning and cultural movement. Inspired by faith and devotion, each figure has been carved by the monks using just hammer and chisel. Ajanta offers a rich tapestry of images that speak of places, royalty, culture and tales of everyday life of ancient India. Many of the Ajanta caves hold panels that illustrate stories from the Jatakas – a large repertoire of tales of incarnations of the Buddha to nymphs and princesses and various other characters.

Day	City	Time	Details
18th Sept' 06			
	Aurangabad	Contd..	
			Ajanta engravings are an unmatched visual treat. To name a few, the flying Apsara in cave: 17, the preaching Buddha in cave 16 or the sculpted Nagaraja in a sitting posture with his consort and a female attendant.
			Lunch stop will be arranged at Jaldapur Guest House on direct payment.
		PM	Transport at disposal for 3 hrs. visit for Shopping, etc. in Aurangabad
			Overnight: Hotel Taj Residency
19th Sept' 06			
	"		Early breakfast at hotel.
		AM	Depart for Ellora caves.
		AM	Arrive and commence your tour, see the finest examples of cave temples, in 34 caves having intricate interiors and ornamental facades. Carved during the 350 AD and 700 AD the rock temples and monasteries represent three religious faiths – Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism.

The Vishvakarma cave of the Buddhists, the Kailasa Hindu temple and the Jain Indrasabha present a captivating sight. These were carved out of a solid rock to provide sanctuaries to Buddhist monks. The Kailasa Temple in cave 16 is a masterpiece in itself. The entire structure was etched out of a monolith and took over 100 years to complete. The temple itself is decorated with themes and incidents from the puranas in a manner that leaves one in rapturous delight.

Vishvakarma cave is both a Chaitya and a Vihara with a seated Buddha in the stupa. Its double – storied structure has dwarfs, dancing playing musical instruments.

The Rameswara cave has figurines of river goddesses adorning its entrance. The Dumar Lena cave resembles the great cave

Day	City	Time	Details
19th Sept' 06			
	Aurangabad		Contd….
			shrine at Elephanta and is dedicated to Lord Shiva. Cave 32, belonging to the Jain faith, is a beautiful shrine with exquisite carvings of a lotus flower on the ceiling and an imposing yakshi seated on her lion under a mango tree laden with fruit. The ceilings of this double – storied cave are also decorated with paintings.
			On the return journey, visit Daulatabad Fort – a fortress with an amazing history, started out as an old Hindu stronghold that was captured and plundered in the 13t century. Made the second capital of the Delhi Sultanate a hundred years later, Daulatabad was held as a fine fortress by successive dynasties in the Deccan. Dominated by a great conical hill, Daulatabad commanded a natural pass, artificial scarping made it impregnable. The Chand Minar, a 30 m high minaret with three circular galleries, looked down over the approach from the north and east and had a defensive as well as religious role in this fortress. **Lunch at hotel on own** Check out from room at 13.00 hrs. Late evening, transfer to the airport.
	Aurangabad	PM	Leave for Mumbai by 9W 3110 at 1955 hrs
	Mumbai	PM	Arrive Mumbai at 2055 hrs. Tour Ends.

END OF OUR SERVICES

AURANGABAD

HOTELS USED:

CITY	HOTELS	CATEGORY	NO OF NTS
Aurangabad	**Hotel Taj Residency** (or similar)	4 star	2
		Total no. of nights:	**2**

Check-in/Check-out 12 noon unless otherwise specified

QUOTATIONS (All rates are in US Dollars ON PER PERSON TWIN SHARING BASIS)

PER PERSON	**USD 240**
SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT	**USD 64**

Airfare Supplement per person

- BOM / IXU / BOM ECONOMY CLASS **USD 202** PER PERSON
  Airfares are based on current tariffs & surcharges & are subject to change.

QUOTATIONS INCLUDE:

1. 2 night's accommodation on twin sharing basis in standard category of rooms unless otherwise specified in hotels mentioned or similar.
2. Meal plan on Bed & breakfast basis
3. All transport by an **air-conditioned vehicle.**
4. A **local English-speaking** guide will be provided**.**
5. **Entrance fees & ASI fees** at all monuments as on date which is subject to change.
6. **All government taxes** at hotels as on date. Any future levies will be charged extra.
7. Services of a TCI English speaking representative to assist at airports and hotels.

QUOTATIONS EXCLUDE:

- Items of a personal nature -i.e. drinks, laundry, tips & gratuities, still/video camera fees at monuments or any items not specified above.
- Visa charges for India & neighbouring countries.
- Any items not mentioned above.