

E.Y.H.O. Tours

# Heartlands of India

Cave Temples and Fallen Empires

January 6 – 19, 2024

*"I want to see the real India."  
- E.M. Forster, A Passage to India*





Bodhisattva Padmapani from cave 1 at Ajanta monastery in central India  
Late 5th century, likely 477

## Your Destination Awaits...

Journey into India's fabulous but little-visited heartlands where a timeless pulse beats. Led by a renowned scholar, this epic tour traces a 2300-year timeline of the earliest rock-cut temples of sculptural extravagance: Ajanta, Ellora, Badami, Elephanta, and Kanheri. From that thematic base, explore the fallen empires of Hampi, Mughal India, and Portuguese Goa, and be dazzled by Art Deco Mumbai. Trace the subcontinent's sweeping historical narrative through seven UNESCO sites.

This tour spans ancient to contemporary, and encompasses the incredible cultural, historical, and architectural riches of this vast and diverse country.

## Highlights

- **Ajanta's** rock-cut caves and fresco paintings - 2<sup>nd</sup> c. BCE
- **Ellora's** massive Kailash Temple – architecture or sculpture?
- **Badami** and **Aihole** cave temples 6-8<sup>th</sup> c CE
- **Hampi**, the last seat of the 16<sup>th</sup> c. CE Vijayanagar Empire
- Impregnable Mughal-era fortress of **Daulatabad**
- Churches and beaches of **Old Goa**
- Mumbai's modern and ancient echoes from **Kanheri** to **Art Deco**
- Breath of fresh at **Nashik's** award-winning vineyards
- Led by Dr. Robert DeCaroli, Professor of South and Southeast Asian art history at George Mason University, Washington
- Five lectures by Dr DeCaroli



## Led by Scholar and Professor Robert DeCaroli

Dr DeCaroli is Professor of South and Southeast Asian art history at George Mason University. He is a specialist in the early history of Buddhism and has conducted fieldwork in India, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia. His first book, *Haunting the Buddha: Indian Popular Religions and the Formation of Buddhism* was published by Oxford University Press 2004, and his second book, *Image Problems: The Origin and Development of the Buddha's Image in Early South Asia*, was published by the University of Washington in 2015. More recently, he co-curated the *Encountering the Buddha: Art and Practice across Asia* exhibition at the Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution. He is also the author of several articles and book chapters. He has been awarded a Getty Research Institute Fellowship and is currently a Robert N.H. Ho Family Foundation Research Fellow.

### At a glance

13 nights, 14 days | January 6-19, 2024

Fly into and out of Mumbai (BOM)

- 4 nights Mumbai
- 1 night Nashik
- 2 nights Aurangabad
- 1 night Badami
- 3 nights Anegundi Village, Hampi
- 2 nights Old Goa

### COSTS

USD 4950 pp double occ.

USD 1320 single supplement



Our travellers tell us our accommodations are attractions in their own right. They should be! Each is carefully selected for personal service and quirky touches, local flavour, ambiance, and rootedness in the community. Unless unavoidable, we eschew big-box chains for optimally located family run and heritage properties. Quiet comforts rather than over the top decadence where you can strike up a conversation with the owner browsing her morning newspaper while making friends with the family dogs. Here's a sample\* of accommodations on this tour.



### Nashik

A 14-room boutique resort overlooking the vineyards of Nashik. Here, you can not only enjoy the peace and quiet beauty, but sample the best Parsi food because the place is run by an acclaimed Mumbai chef who prides herself in making guests feel at home upon arrival. Trek up to a nearby temple located on a hillock and watch a brilliant sunset from there, or take a stroll around the table-grape vineyards surrounding the property.



### Hampi

Water, greenery and boulders are distinctive elements at this small resort located 7kms from UNESCO Hampi's Vijayanagar era temple ruins. This eco resort is nestled amidst water eroded boulders on the banks of Tungabhadra River. Individually decorated cottages bring the natural rock and flowing water theme indoors for a harmonious experience. An ideal place to cool your heels after a long day exploring the ruins of Hampi.



### Goa

A restored 1879 Portuguese mansion within the boutique and restaurant lined area of Fontainhas, Panjim. Fontainhas is a conservation zone with heritage listed homes and winding alleyways, livened by splashes of vibrant colour on the walls. The central location puts you in walking distance to the waterfront. The original old world elegance has been retained and mixed with a splash of new and modern amenities to create a luxurious home away from home.

\*Accommodations are representative of actual properties booked, depending on availability and group size.

# COSTS

**USD 4950 pp double occ.**  
**USD 1320 single supp.**

## WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Led by Robert DeCaroli, professor, scholar, and researcher in South Asian Art, George Mason University
- Accompanied by Shila Desai, owner and founder of E.Y.H.O. Tours
- All accommodation in select 3, 4, and 5\* hotels
- Road transport in private AC vehicles
- All Internal flights: Aurangabad/Mumbai; Mumbai/Hubli; Hubli/Goa; Goa/ Mumbai
- All guided tours and sightseeing
- All entrance fees and taxes
- All breakfasts, and either L or D daily
- 5 Lectures by Dr DeCaroli

## WHAT'S NOT:

International airfare  
Tipping and gratuities  
Travel insurance  
Visa fees

For your complete peace of mind, we are TICO  
(Travel Industry of Ontario) accredited  
#50023991

## REGISTRATION:

Contact [shila@eyhotours.com](mailto:shila@eyhotours.com)  
Deposit USD 800 with registration form  
Minimum 12pax | Maximum 16pax  
[Terms and Conditions](#)

