Pilgrimage and Cultural Heritage Tour to India

(All- inclusive Tour Package)

October 14th 2020 to October 29th 2020 (16 Days)

Day 1 – 14-10-2020 (Wednesday) – Departure from Edmonton

Day 2 – 15-10-2020 (Thursday) – Travel – Arrival at Delhi – Namaste –Welcome to Incredible India. You will be greeted and welcomed by the tour manager. Transfer and Check in at Hotel Crown Plaza/Similar (5 Star).

Day 3 - 16-10-2020 (Friday) - Delhi Visit

After breakfast, check out from hotel and begin the Delhi tour including India Gate, Rashtrapati Bhavan (President House), Parliament House and mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral Church. Afternoon enter into one of the fastest train of Indian railways to experience the lifeline transport system of the country to Agra. Transfer and Check in hotel, overnight stay at Taj Hotel and convention Centre/Similar (5 Star).

Day 4 – 17-10-2020 (Saturday) – Agra Visit

After breakfast, proceed for the sightseeing tour of **Taj Mahal** (one of the Seven Wonders of the World), **Agra Fort, Handicraft Factory and Mass at St. Mary's Church.** After lunch drive to **Jaipur** (Approx. 4.5 Hours) enroute visit **Fatehpuri Sikri.** Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel and check in. Enjoy, relax this evening with **Dinner and musical / cultural Rajasthani traditional dances / folk program** at the hotel. **(Hotel Radisson Blu/similar)** (5 Star).









Day 5 – 18-10-2020 (Sunday) – Jaipur Visit

After breakfast, proceed for a full day sightseeing tour of Jaipur visiting City Palace, Jantar Mantar, Hawa Mahal and Mass at Cathedral of our Lady of Annunciation Church. After Lunch, visit Amer Fort and enjoy Elephant ride here. Later visit the Handicraft factory for handicraft and Gold Shopping in Jaipur. Return back to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

Day 6 – 19-10-2020 (Monday) – Kolkata Visit

After breakfast, check out from hotel and proceed to Airport for flight to Kolkata. At arrival transfer and check in at hotel. After lunch proceed to visit - celebrate mass at Mother Teresa's House and Tomb, visit Howrah Bridge, Victoria Memorial Hall and Government offices before returning to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay in the hotel. (Hotel Swissotel/Similar)(5 Star)

Day 7 – 20-10-2020 (Tuesday) – Kolkata to Goa Visit

After Morning mass and Breakfast Check out and transfer to the airport for flight to Goa. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel to check in and relax the rest of the day at the hotel to explore the **private beach of Goa**. Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel. (Royal Orchid Beach resort/ Similar) (5 Star)

Day 8 – 21-10-2020 (Wednesday) - Goa Visit

After breakfast, proceed for a full day sightseeing tour of Goa, visit to Bom Jesus Basilica which enshrines the uncorrupted body of St. Francis Xavier, SG Cathedral Church and Miramar beach for lunch in the cruise. Later on visit Our Lady Immaculate Conception Church, Panjim and celebrate Mass followed by the visit to the spice garden and then return back to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay.









Day 9 – 22-10-2020 (Thursday) - Chennai visit

After checkout from the hotel proceed to airport for an early morning flight to Chennai. After arrival at Chennai visit St. Thomas Mount, Saidapet Little Mount Church – places of St. Thomas's ministry and death. After lunch proceed to visit Santhome Cathedral which enshrines the tomb of St. Thomas – the disciple of Jesus. Afternoon drive to Mahabalipuram (1 hour) and visit the Shore temple - built with blocks of granite, dating from the 8th century AD (UNESCO Heritage Site). Dinner and Stay at Grande Bay Resort/ Similar (5 Star).

Day 10 – 23-10-2020 (Friday) - Mahabalipuram and Pondicherry Visit

After Breakfast, checkout hotel and visit the **Pancha Rathas** - an example of Monolithic Indian rock-cut architecture, **Descent of the Ganges** - a 96 by 43 feet giant open-air rock relief carved on two monolithic rock boulders, **Krishna's Butterball** - a gigantic granite

boulder that is approximately 6 meters high and 5 meters wide and weighs around 250 tons. It stands on an approximately 1.2-meter base on a slope, and is said to have been at the same place for 1200 years. Proceed to **Pondicherry** (Approx. 2 hours) for mass at Holy Rosary Church, Muthialpet, Pondicherry. After lunch drive to **Velankanni** (3.30 hours) - visit **Morning Star Church**, the miraculous pond of our Lady and the place of apparition of our Blessed Mother. Dinner and overnight Stay at Hotel Sea Gate (3 Star).

Day 11 – 24-10-2020 (Saturday) – Velankanni Visit – Madurai

Start this day with an early morning mass at **Our Lady of Velankanni Basilica** called as the **Lourdes of the East** where millions of people of all faith around the world visit. Visit also the original Church erected by the Portuguese Sailors following the apparition of the Blessed Mother and have a morning walk on the Sea Shore. After Breakfast checkout and proceed to Chettinad (Aprox. 3 hours) for lunch at **Chettinad Mansion - Kanadukathan** and palace visit. After lunch proceed to **Madurai** (Aprox. 2 hours) and visit **St. Mary's Cathedral** – Check in hotel, Dinner and overnight Stay at **Hotel Madurai Heritage**/ **Similar (5 Star).**









Day 12 – 25-10-2020 (Sunday) – Madurai visit

After Mass, breakfast and Checkout, visit **Meenakshi Temple**, a historic Hindu temple located on the southern bank of the Vaigai River in the temple city of Madurai, Tamil Nadu. The town of Madurai is ancient and is mentioned in Sangam era texts that is dated to be from the 1st to 4th century CE. This city is also known for **Jasmine flowers**, silk and cotton. After the visit you will have an opportunity to Shop around. After Lunch drive to **Coimbatore** (Aprox. 4.5 hours) – check in Hotel, Dinner and overnight stay at **Hotel Vivanta by Taj/ Similar (5 Star)**

Day 13 - 26-10-2020 (Monday) Ooty Visit

After Breakfast, check out and drive through windy roads and scenic view of mountains to **Ooty** (Approx. 2.45 hours), a most tourist sought after Hill station of India. Ooty features a subtropical highland climate and in contrast with most of South India, Ooty generally features mild conditions throughout the year. On arrival visit **Ooty botanical**

Garden, Rose Garden, Adams Fountain, Mass at St. Stephen Church. After Lunch visit Doddapetta - the highest mountain in the Nilgiri Mountains at 2,637 metres (8,652 feet), Enjoy the scenic Valley view and Tea garden, Tea Factory, museum and Spice Shopping. Overnight stay at Accord Highland/Similar (5 Star).

Day 14 – 27-10-2020 (Tuesday) – Mysore Visit

After breakfast and Check out Drive to Mysore (Aprox 3 hours). On the way visit Pallottine Theologate House for mass, and by noon check in hotel at Mysore. After Lunch visit Mysore Palace, Philomena Cathedral Church, Silk and Sandal Shopping. In the evening enjoy the Palace lighting show, Dinner and Stay at **Hotel Accor Grand Mercure/ Similar (5 Star).**









Day 15 – 28-10-2020 (Wednesday) – Srirangapatana Visit

After breakfast, checkout and visit Srirangapatana Fort, Gumbaz (burial Chamber of king Tipu Sultan), Dariya Daulat Baug (Tippu's Summer Palace). Drive to Bangalore the IT Hub of India (Aprox. 3 hours) - enroute celebrate mass at St. Joseph Church, Mandya. After lunch enroute visit Doddaalamara (Big Banyan Tree) for Check in, Relax, Farewell Dinner and South Indian Cultural Programme – **Hotel Signature Club/ Similar (5 Star)** – On this day leave for Airport late night.

Day 16 – 29-10-2020 (Thursday) – Early morning flight back to Edmonton and arrive on the same day evening.

Package Cost (Rate based on Minimum 30 passengers)

CAD \$ 5350/- *per person Double Occupancy Basis (All-Inclusive Package)
CAD \$ 6950/- *On Single Occupancy Basis (All-Inclusive Package)

Package Includes:

- All Hotel Accommodations (5 Stars)
- All tips, Gratitudes and Porterages
- All Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
- Airport taxes and all other taxes
- All entrance Fees

- All flights International (Edmonton to India Roundtrip) and Domestic (Jaipur to Kolkata, Kolkata to Goa and Goa to Chennai)
- Train Fare between Delhi to Agra (Air-conditioned Coach)
- All transportations
- Free Mineral Water bottle as needed
- All English speaking guides
- Elephant Ride, Lunch cruise and cultural programme

Package Highlights

- All-inclusive Package
- Daily Holy Mass
- All 5 star hotel accommodation except one hotel in Velankanni
- All Meals are Buffet
- All transportation in Volvo/Scania/Luxury Air-Conditioned Buses
- Elephant Ride, Lunch Cruise, South and North Indian Cultural Programmes
- Mysore Palace Lighting Show by night
- 22K Gold, Spice, sandal products and silk shopping

Package Excludes

- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Any items of personal nature like telephone, Laundry etc.
- Travel and Medical insurance are mandatory. Cancellation Insurance is optional. (This can be arranged through Europa Travel, Edmonton cost will be advised later. If anyone has international Health and Travel coverage and do not want to purchase the insurance from the tour operator they have to sign an insurance waiver form).

Booking Procedure

Booking will be done on first come first serve basis. Limited seats available. You can request to book the tour by depositing CAD \$ 1000 by cheque in favour of Europa Travel, along with completed booking form with a copy of your passport ID page. All payments are through cheque or cash only.

Payment Schedule

At the time of booking – CAD \$ 1000/- (Non -refundable)

Before May 15 – 50% of the Total Package Cost (CAD \$ 1650)

Before August 14 – Balance of the Total Package Cost (CAD \$ 2700)

Cancellation Procedure

You may cancel your booking on or before 90 days prior to the first day of the trip by notifying Europa Travel in writing undersigned by the passenger or the person authorised us to make the booking. In that case we will keep the first deposit CAD 1000 to cover our costs. Cancellation after 90 days needs to be covered through cancellation insurance.

Travel, Medical and Trip Cancellation Insurance

Europa Travel sells Manulife insurance. There are a variety of policies depending upon your needs. To begin with, Trip Cancellation Insurance is available to cover the non-refundable and the cost of the entire trip. This should be purchased when you make your first deposit. At a later date, when the second and final payment is made, this policy can be upgraded to cover the entire cost of the tour as well as the addition of medical and travel coverage. The cost of insurance is based on the age of the client and coverage requested. A quote for insurance will be provided upon request. As a special offer Europa Travel will provide a 15% discount on insurance to all passengers on this tour.

Passport and Visa

All passengers are responsible for securing visas for the trip. Indian embassy has online and offline tourist visa option for Canadian, USA and some other country citizens. Tour Company is not responsible in visa matters. It is mandatory to carry all documents such as Passport, Visa and ticket etc all time during the trip and you may be asked to produce the same at hotel check in.

Note: Air-condition and Music in Bus will remain switched off during entire hilly drive to Ooty. Indian Domestic flight checked in baggage free allowance is 15kgs and 6kgs Hand Luggage.

For more Information and Booking, Please contact

Sharon Pisesky, Europa Travel, 11424 32 Ave NW, Edmonton, AB T6J 3H5 780 436 4888 or 780 906 8344 or Email at srvpisesky@gmail.com

or

Fr. Jaya Rajan, Drayton Valley at <u>frjaya@gmail.com</u> or 780 902 3839.