



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE <sup>OF</sup>  
AMERICA TOURS [www.aiatours.org](http://www.aiatours.org)

Small group tours with outstanding AIA lecturers

# The Splendors of Southern India

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 21, 2011 (22 DAYS)

WITH LECTURER & HOST:  
**J. DANIEL WHITE**



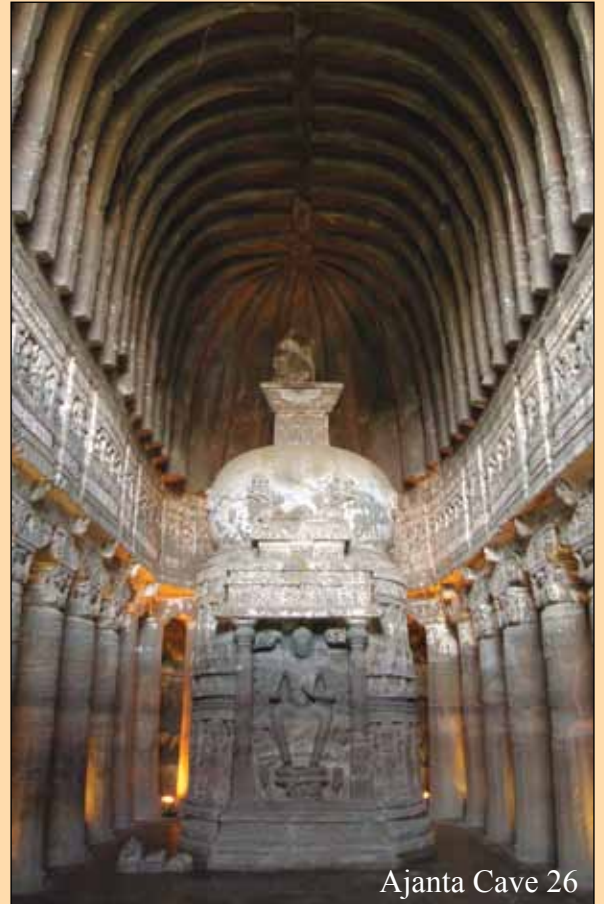
## HIGHLIGHTS

Discover the most pristine of southern India's spectacular archaeological sites and architecture, marvelous traditional cuisine and handicrafts; plus a variety of splendid landscapes.

See the most important and spectacular Hindu, Jain, Buddhist, and Islamic monuments that represent southern India's fascinating history. Among the many world renowned sites we will visit are **six UNESCO World Heritage Sites**: the monuments at **Hampi** and **Mahabalipuram**; the **Brihadeshwara Temple** in Thanjavur; and the renowned **Ajanta, Ellora and Elephanta Caves**.

Enjoy equally important but lesser-known sites, such as the **Belur and Halebid temples**, the 55-foot high statue of the Jain enlightened being at **Sravanabelagola**, and Tipu Sultan's fabulous palace and mosque, **Srirangapatnam**.

Admire the world's finest Chola bronzes at the **National Art Gallery and Museum in Chennai** (Madras) and at the famous **Thanjavur Bronze Museum**. View rare palm leaf manuscripts in the **Saraswati Mahal Library**. Visit **Dakshina Chithra**, a museum showcasing the art, architecture, lifestyles, crafts, and performing arts of southern India. Attend wonderful cultural events, including **dance and musical performances**.



Ajanta Cave 26

*"I have wanted to see southern India for 20 years and the temples exceeded all my expectations."*

*"The trip was perfect!"*

*"A perfectly run tour."*

*"Our trip was fantastic!"*

*"Excellent trip—lots of variety in the sites visited."*

## HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED



**This well-paced, three-week tour is the most comprehensive overview of southern India available.**

**Everything is included except flights:** all accommodations, meals, excursions with bottled water, entrance fees, transfers, transportation by deluxe motor coach and first-class train, tips and local taxes, and your expert leaders: an AIA lecturer plus trip manager and local guides.

**Stay in the finest accommodations at each site,** including many five-star luxury hotels, for at least two nights each so that you have sufficient time to explore nearby sites in-depth and take advantage of hotel amenities.

**An experienced trip manager will handle all the details** of your travels, so that you can relax and enjoy the myriad sites and experiences that await you.

This tour is **limited to just 20 participants**, and is co-sponsored by the The Explorers Club, so please do not delay in calling AIA Tours at **800-748-6262** or emailing [aia@studytours.org](mailto:aia@studytours.org) to make your reservation.

## LECTURER & HOST

*"Our trip exceeded all my expectations."*

*"The entire trip was a highlight!"*

*"A wonderful, fascinating trip – magnificent sites, well planned, the accommodations were excellent."*

*"We saw and did much more than we ever could have on our own."*

*"This was a trip of a lifetime! A dream come true! I felt safe and well cared for. And so enjoyed the 'off-the-beaten track' sites we were able to visit."*

*"I enjoyed the ease of travel, the care for our comfort and the excellence of the educational experience."*



Share an in-depth, overland exploration of the splendors of southern India with **Dr. J. Daniel White, your engaging and congenial lecturer and host.** Dan is an expert on Indian art, religion, and culture, who has visited India more than 38 times.

**Archaeological Institute of America lecturer and host J. Daniel**

**White, Ph.D.,** is Professor of South Asian Studies at The University of

North Carolina at Charlotte, where he has taught for 39 years. He earned his doctorate in Indian Religions, Languages, and Literatures from the University of Pennsylvania, and is Former Executive Director of the Southern Atlantic States Association for Asian and African Studies. Dan's numerous publications address such topics as chaos and order in ancient and contemporary India, the Sanskrit language, Indian architecture, religion and politics in India, and Indian religions, in addition to more contemporary subjects such as Indian advertising, Indian medicine, British colonial rule and disease in India, and Indo-U.S. relations.

Dan has been an occasional advisor on South Asia to the Department of State, the White House, and other organizations and multinational corporations, and is a frequently requested lecturer on India at academic institutions as well as before civic, corporate, and other organizations, both nationally and internationally. He has participated in several archaeological excavations in India, including several of the sites on our itinerary. Dan has visited India on more than 38 occasions, living in India for as much as a year on several of those visits. He has been a popular study leader on past AIA tours of India, including this southern India program in 2005, and looks forward with enthusiasm to sharing with you this exploration of great southern Indian art, architecture, and archaeology.

*"Professor White was the perfect guide — exceptional in every way."*

~ Past India tour participant

*"Dan is a walking encyclopedia of information about India."*

~ Past India tour participant



(B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)

**Days 1 - 3: Monday - Wednesday, February 28 - March 2, 2011: USA / Bangalore, INDIA**

Fly to Bangalore, where you will be met at the airport and transferred to our deluxe hotel upon arrival late the evening of March 1 or the morning of March 2. March 2 is a full day at leisure to rest after the long flight. *Overnight at the Taj Residency for three nights.*

**Day 4: Thursday, March 3: Bangalore**

This morning, enjoy your first lecture. After lunch, enjoy a city tour of Bangalore. Pass by the Vidhan Soudha, elaborate Neo-Dravidian buildings that house the State government; then visit one of the great gardens in all of South Asia at Lalbagh, begun in 1740 and boasting a grand, 19<sup>th</sup> century glass greenhouse. Then visit a cave containing the 16<sup>th</sup> century Bull Temple, featuring four splendid granite columns; and end the day with the haunting 16<sup>th</sup> century Tipu's Summer Palace. Enjoy a welcome dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

**Day 5: Friday, March 4: Bangalore / Hampi**

This morning we take a lengthy drive to Hampi, the fabled capital of the Vijayanagara kings, who ruled for more than 200 years. This spectacular site covers some eight square miles, and represents the high point of Vijayanagara art and architecture. Because Hampi has many Shiva temples, the town seems like one gigantic temple as devotees bathe in the river and worship the innumerable lingas carved as graffiti on rocks and in small shrines. *Overnight at the Krishna Palace for two nights.* (B,L,D)

**Day 6: Saturday, March 5: Hampi**

Spend the day exploring Hampi. The Vijayanagara city ruins at Hampi, a World Heritage Site, is one of the most interesting historical sites in southern India. Once the capital of the greatest kingship in medieval India, the city was the center of international commerce and attracted Portuguese, Arab, Chinese, and Russian explorers and traders. The complex is spread over a vast, hilly area, through which runs the majestic Tungabhadra River. The ruins are divided into four significant urban zones that contain temples, mosques, palaces, and other monumental architecture. (B,L,D)

**Day 7: Sunday, March 6: Hampi / Chikmagalur**

This morning is at leisure. We transfer by motorcoach this afternoon to the train station, where we board the first-class compartment of a day train to Chikmagalur. On arrival we transfer to our hotel. *Overnight at The Gateway KM Road Chikmagalur for two nights.* (B,L,D)

**Day 8: Monday, March 7: Chikmagalur / Belur / Halebid / Chikmagalur**

Spend a full day exploring the temples of Belur and Halebid. These 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century temples were built by kings and nobles of the Hoysala dynasty, and are magnificent examples of an architectural style unique to the region. Abundantly covered with sculptures made of soft, black chloritic schist, and representing gods, celestial beings, and humans,

# INDIA



*The World Heritage Site of Hampi was the capital of the last great Hindu Kingdom of Vijayanagara from 1336 to 1565. The rock-hewn landscape has an extensive array of enchanting temples that won the admiration of the earliest European explorers.*



*The Hoysaleswara temple, dating back to AD 1121, is astounding for its wealth of sculptural details. The walls of the temple are covered with an endless variety of depictions from Hindu mythology, animals, birds and Shilabalikas (dancing figures), yet no two sculptures are the same.*

the temples are unique in their intricate design and intimacy of scale. The temples also provide a unique opportunity to study temple patronage, construction, and renovation of a time when large shifts in power were occurring in southern India. (B,L,D)

**Day 9: Tuesday, March 8: Chikmagalur / Sravanabelagola / Mysore**

After breakfast, depart by motorcoach for Mysore, stopping en route at Sravanabelagola, one of the oldest and most important Jain pilgrimage centers in all of India. It consists of two hills that rise prominently above a valley. On the smaller hill is a perfectly-proportioned temple that was built by a local general. On the larger hill, the same general erected a fifty-five foot high monolithic granite statue of the Jain enlightened being and renunciate warrior Bahubali (Gomateshwara). Sravanabelagola was an important center for the jewel trade, and housed many important monastic institutions. We arrive in Mysore late this afternoon and check in to the Hotel Lalitha Mahal Palace, built as the guest palace of the Maharajas. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. This evening you may join an optional excursion to the local fruit and vegetable market. *Overnight at the Hotel Lalitha Mahal Palace for two nights.* (B,L,D)

**Day 10: Wednesday, March 9: Mysore**

Once the seat of the Maharaja of Mysore, the city is located near a rocky hill named after the goddess Chamundi. Mysore's City Palace was designed in a passionately florid Indo-Saracenic style by British architect Henry Irwin to house the Wodeyar royal family. Today there is a museum within the palace, and its numerous carved wooden and silver doors, stained glass mirrors, and historical paintings attest to the wealth and prestige attained by the Wodeyar family during their long rule. We will also visit Srirangapatnam, an island fortress in the Kaveri River, to see the fabulous Tipu Sultan's palace and mosque. Tipu Sultan, once the ruler of Mysore, was a diplomat, soldier, scholar, and poet who died fighting against the British in 1799. This evening enjoy a special folk dance performance. (B,L,D)

**Day 11: Thursday, March 10: Mysore / Bangalore / Chennai (Madras)**

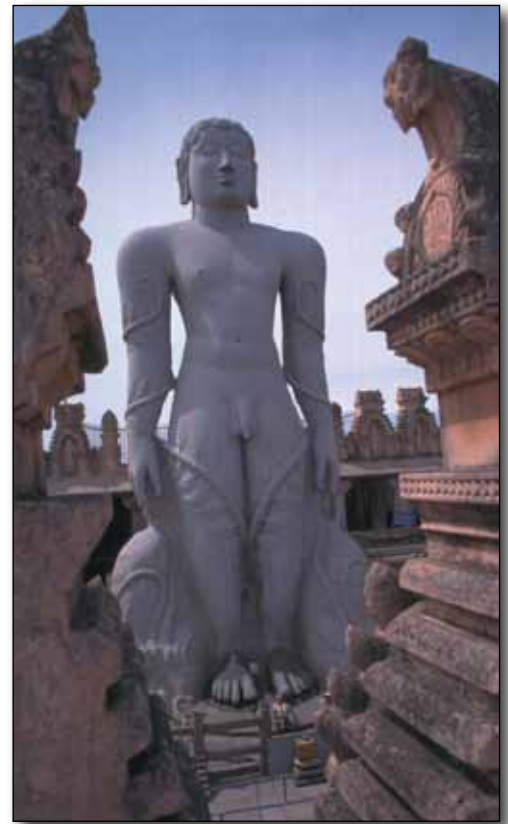
Transfer to Bangalore by motorcoach this morning and fly to Chennai (Madras). The gateway to the south and the capital of Tamil Nadu, Chennai is also the seat of ancient civilization in India, with a rich heritage of fine arts, sculpture, and architecture. During colonial rule it became the capital of the Madras Presidency, one of the largest areas of India under British control. It was at this time that the city began its evolution into a great metropolitan center. Today, Chennai is a beguiling mix of colonial remnants and post-Independence modernity. There is time to relax before dinner this evening. *Overnight at the Hotel Taj Coromandel for three nights.* (B,L,D)

**Day 12: Friday, March 11: Chennai**

Visit the National Art Gallery and Museum, built in 1909 in the Neo-classical style, and containing south Indian stone sculptures and the famous Bronze Gallery, with 12<sup>th</sup> century Chola bronze masterpieces. The afternoon is at leisure to relax and explore Chennai on your own. (B,L,D)

**Day 13: Saturday, March 12: Chennai / Mahabalipuram**

Travel via motorcoach to Mahabalipuram, which was an ancient port and important center for the Pallava kings during the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> centuries, and its monuments are now a World Heritage Site. It is famous for its shore temples and rock carvings, which stand on a beach where ocean waves and the sun add romance and intensity to the site. Mahabalipuram has some of the most important buildings in Indian architectural history, and its tradition of carving continues today with the presence of stone sculptors at the site. Continue on to Dakshina Chithra, a museum showcasing the art, architecture, lifestyles, crafts, and performing arts of southern India. After dinner this evening, attend a private, classical Indian dance performance. (B,L,D)



*The colossal statue of Gomateshwara or Bahubali, the Jain saint, is carved out of a single block of granite and is one of the largest monolithic statues in the world. It was created around AD 983.*



*The World Heritage Site of Mahabalipuram, built between the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> centuries, are mostly rock-cut and monolithic monuments, consisting of cave temples, monolithic rathas (chariots), sculpted reliefs and structural temples.*



*Chennai's famous Bronze Gallery features two floors of 12<sup>th</sup> century Chola bronze masterpieces, including many stunning Natarajas (Shiva as the cosmic dancer known as The Lord of Dance).*



#### *Day 14: Sunday, March 13: **Chennai / Thanjavur***

Travel to Thanjavur by train, where we transfer to the Hotel Parisutham upon arrival. The remainder of the day is at leisure. *Overnight at the Hotel Parisutham for two nights.* (B,L,D)

#### *Day 15: Monday, March 14: **Thanjavur***

Spend a full day in Thanjavur, the 11<sup>th</sup> century capital of the Chola Empire. We visit the Brihadeshwara temple and fort, the crowning glory of Chola temple architecture and a World Heritage Site. Set on spacious grounds and built of granite, it is an impressive structure that was the world's tallest building at the time it was built. After the 15<sup>th</sup> century it became part of the Vijayanagara kingdom, and later passed into the hands of the Marathas and the British. Afterward we will admire the small but impressive Bronze Museum with the world's finest Chola bronzes, then visit a bronze factory and the Saraswati Mahal Library, which displays rare palm leaf manuscripts. (B,L,D)



*The World Heritage Site of Brihadeshwara temple and fort in Thanjavur dates from the 11<sup>th</sup> century and is considered the world's first complete granite temple, a masterpiece of Chola temple architecture.*

#### *Day 16: Tuesday, March 15: **Thanjavur / Madurai***

Today we drive from Thanjavur to Madurai. Along the way we visit the land of the Chettiars, a merchant caste with a long history of trading in southeast Asia and India. We then travel through the village of Kadiyapatti to visit the local Raja's mansion with its deeply carved, awe-inspiring doors, and massive support columns with interlocking brackets to support a second and third floor; as well as Puddukothai, with its sacred Aiyanyar grove full of large clay horses and riders. Arriving in Madurai, we check into our hotel and have the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. *Overnight at The Gateway Pasumalai Madurai for two nights.* (B,L,D)

#### *Day 17: Wednesday, March 16: **Madurai***

One of India's oldest cities, Madurai sits on the Vaigai River. The city was the seat of many important Tamil and Sultanate rulers, and later became an important political center during the British ruled Madras Presidency. The main attraction and focus of Madurai is the temple dedicated to the goddess Meenakshi. Built over the course of a millennium or more, the main shrine stands at the center of a multi-enclosure complex with four gateways that open to the cardinal directions. The complex is perhaps the most important example of the Hindu temple as a city and fortress. The city features other attractions as well, including the Nayaka King's Palace, partially restored in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and whose remains demonstrate the power and wealth of the Nayakas. The city is full of bazaars, shops, and restaurants, and continues to be an important handloom textile center. This evening you may choose to revisit the temple to see the evening ritual of the goddess being escorted to the god's chamber. (B,L,D)



*Madurai's Meenakshi complex houses 14 magnificent Gopurams (towers) including two golden Gopurams for the main deities that are elaborately sculptured and painted.*

#### *Day 18: Thursday, March 17: **Madurai / Aurangabad***

Transfer to the airport this morning for our flight to Aurangabad via Mumbai (Bombay). Aurangabad is a center for important textile traditions, including the renowned Paithani saris. Upon arrival, we transfer to the Hotel Taj Residency, where the remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. *Overnight at the Hotel Taj Residency for two nights.* (B,L,D)

#### *Day 19: Friday, March 18: **Aurangabad / Ajanta / Aurangabad***

Depart this morning for a two-hour drive to the Buddhist and Jain caves at Ajanta. Under the patronage of local kings, the caves at Ajanta, which are now a World Heritage Site, were carved near an important trade route and housed Buddhist institutions and their monks, especially during monsoon season. There are lovely painted scenes of Buddha's life, as well as carefully-rendered images of contemporaneous Buddhist Mahayana precepts. We return to the hotel for a late lunch, followed by the remainder of the day at leisure. (B,L,D)



*The World Heritage Site of Ajanta features 28 rock-cut cave monuments with numerous paintings and sculptures that are considered masterpieces of Buddhist religious art.*



*Day 20: Saturday, March 19:*

## **Aurangabad / Daulatabad / Ellora / Mumbai (Bombay)**

This morning we visit Daulatabad, located approximately ten miles northwest of Aurangabad. Daulatabad is an historic center that was the seat of many Deccani rulers. Pre-13<sup>th</sup> century it was known as Devagiri, “the Mountain Apex of the Gods,” and after its Yadava rulers fell to the Delhi Sultanate armies the city was renamed Daulatabad, or “the City of Wealth.” Throughout its thousand-year history, the city has been a place where many languages and political and religious movements flourished. Important monuments include an early 14<sup>th</sup> century fort, mosques, tombs, and a palace built by Shah Jahan, the Mughal emperor who commissioned the Taj Mahal. Continue on to Ellora, a World Heritage complex of Buddhist, Hindu, and Jain shrines and patronage. The most magnificent of these is the Kailasanatha temple dating from the 8<sup>th</sup> century. Dedicated to the god Shiva, the 100-foot high, two-storied temple was carved out of living rock to stand as the sign of the power, wealth, and devotion of the ruling Rashtrakuta king. This evening we fly to Mumbai (Bombay). *Overnight at the Hotel Taj Mahal for two nights.* (B,L,D)

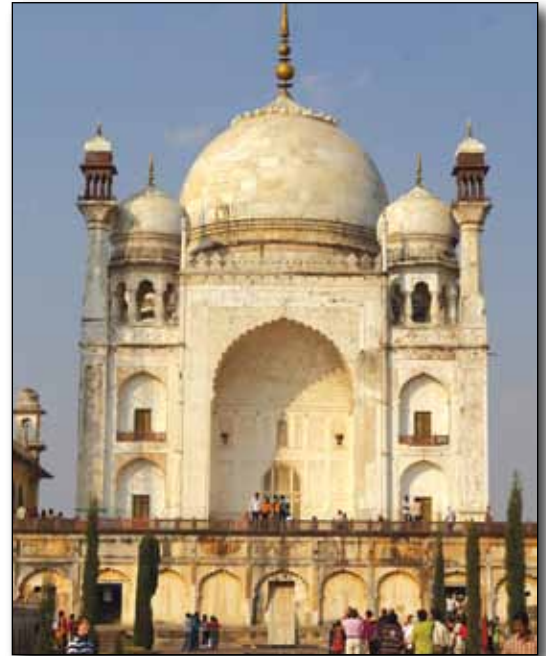


*The World Heritage Site of Ellora consists of 34 monasteries and temples excavated between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries out of the vertical face of the Charanandri hills. Cave 16 (above), known as the Kailasanatha, looks like a free-standing, multi-storeyed temple complex, but it was carved out of one single rock, and covers an area double the size of Greece's Parthenon.*

## *Day 21: Sunday, March 20:* **Mumbai / Elephanta / Mumbai**

This morning we visit the Elephanta Caves, a World Heritage Site located on a small island a few miles from Mumbai harbor. The island features a fine cluster of 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> century rock-cut caves carved in a style first developed by artists approximately two hundred years earlier, in the Gangetic Valley, when the region was part of the great Gupta imperial formation. Carved from living rock, the sculptures in the most majestic cave depict aspects of the god Shiva. Return to Mumbai for lunch, and later in the afternoon enjoy a short tour of Mumbai. The commercial capital of India, Mumbai is an exciting city full of bazaars and Victorian buildings. Besides being a major Indian port, Mumbai is also a great industrial center. Its major sites are the Gateway of India, the city's most famous landmark; the Prince of Wales Museum, especially renowned for its sculptures and miniature paintings; and Dhobi Ghat. Enjoy an elegant and festive farewell dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

*Modeled on the original Taj Mahal, the Bibi Ka Maqbara was built by a son of the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb in 1679 to honor his mother.*



## *Day 22: Monday, March 21:* **Mumbai / USA**

Transfer to the airport this morning for our flights back to the USA. (B) ♦

*The World Heritage Site of Elephanta dates possibly to the 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> centuries. Hewn from solid basalt rock, the caves feature huge sculptures and reliefs depicting the many aspects of Lord Shiva.*

