De la Sécion de langues et civilisations de l’Asie du Sud

Voyage d’études 2020
From Hyderabad to Goa January 31th – February 11th 2020

Dept. Geneva or Zurich

In the morning arrival at Hyderabad.
After a rest in our hotel we will visit the Tombs of the Qutb Shahi Dynasty in Ibrahim Bagh in the afternoon.
On the way back we will pass Golconda Fort, which has been erected on the place of an old Kakatiya clay stronghold from 1590 onward. Who wants may stroll through the ruins.

This day is devoted to a full day visit of modern Hyderabad and its many Muslim places. So we will see the imposing Charminar – a former gatehouse that has been erected possibly as a famine relief project in 16th cent. Our next goal is the vast Mecca Masjid close by, begun by the Qutub Shahis in the 17th cent. and finished by the Moghul Aurangzeb. The Chowmahalla Palace from 18th /19th cent. will invite us for a longer stay as the interiors of the four palaces are worth wile. The buildings have been restored until 2010. On the way back me may undertake a short stroll through the bustling lanes of Lad Bazar. In the afternoon we will be passing the large Hussain Sagar and drive to the Telengana State Archaeological Museum. There we will come to know important artifacts of the Kakatiya Dynasty as well as many...
items and inscriptions from Buddhist places from Telengana.

In the early morning we will leave Hyderabad by coach and go southwest via the small city of Yadgir to Kanganahalli. This archaeological site with limestone reliefs and Brahmi inscriptions of 1st/2nd cent. decorating the trunk of a large stupa caused a sensation 20 years ago. The reliefs with Jatakas are of outstanding quality. We continue to Gulbarga, where we visit the old Jamma Masjid in the vast fort and the Dargah of Hazrat Muh. Gesudaraz, a well known Sufi saint.

In the morning we continue our sightseeing and then drive to Bijapur, where we will stay for 2 nights. The imposing Golgumbaz which we may see in the evening light demonstrated the independence of the local Adilshahis from the northindian Moghuls. The whispering gallery tempts children and adults to make noise, so the place may be not as peaceful as it had been intended. But the extension of the dome and the hall as well as the workmanship are breathtaking.

We continue or sightseeing with the Ibrahim Rauza, the imposing Tomb of Ibrahim Adil Shah, with its very delicate carvings and stuccos in late Bijapur style, the Jama Majid and the close old quarter of the city invite for a short walk to the Mithari Mahal a gate house of Ibrahim II. Bara Kaman is a ruinous Tomb of Ali Adil Shah with 12 huge arches remaining of the unfinished structure. If time permits we may also see a huge canon on a bastion of the citadel (Malik-i-Maidan) or we visit the Archaelogical Museum with a nice collection of Bijapur miniature paintings.
Today we drive to Badami. In the afternoon we visit the lake side temples and the Archaeological Museum and possibly stroll uphill to two nice Shivalaya temples with a fantastic view over the place.

In the morning we climb up to the 4 famous cave temples of Badami. They are one temple for Shiva, two for Vishnu and one Jain Cave temple. The reliefs are outstanding and depict a whole world of Hindu mythology. In the afternoon we stroll through the village to the Malegitti Shivalaya temple.

Pattadakal has been the coronation place of the Chalukya kings. There are huge temples with all kinds of narrative reliefs from 8th cent. Most impressive is the Virupaksha Temple with its huge Nandi. We spend the morning on the temple complex and continue later to Aihole. Here we may see only a friction of the more than 100 buildings. They began to be built in 6th cent. with the Hucimalli, the Ladh Khan and the Durga Temple with interesting architecture and large mythological reliefs. We will see as many temples as we can and the Ravana cave. In the evening we return to Badami.
This is a full day of driving. The last part leads us down the ghats in almost endless bends of the road. We come to our small heritage hotel and relax.

In the morning we visit the old churches of old Goa from 17th cent.. The shift of the Capital from the place to modern Panjim once left churches back only, all other material had been dismantled and reused. The churches have been beautifully restored in 20th cent. and display an impressive religiosity. We see the St. Cajetan the Se Cathederal, St. Francis church and Basilica of Bom Jesus. In the afternoon there is time for leisure walks then there comes the check out and about 11 pm we drive to the airport.

In the early hours our flight via Doha to Geneva or Zurich will leave Panjim. Arrival there will be in the morning.