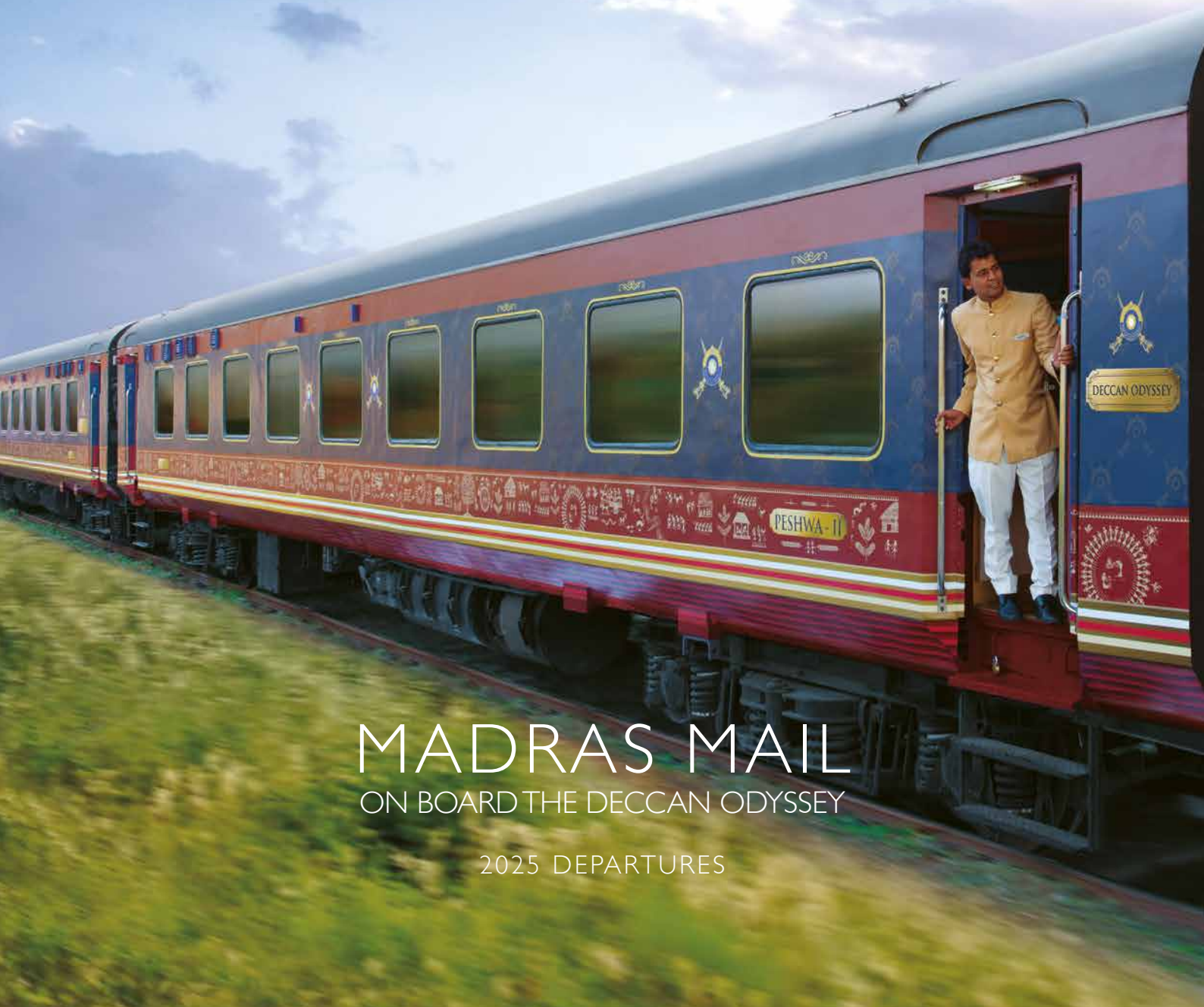




GOLDEN EAGLE LUXURY TRAINS

VOYAGES OF A LIFETIME BY PRIVATE TRAIN™



MADRAS MAIL

ON BOARD THE DECCAN ODYSSEY

2025 DEPARTURES



GOLDEN EAGLE



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MADRAS MAIL

MUMBAI (BOMBAY) - GOA - OOTY - KOCHI (COCHIN) - TRIVANDRUM - KANYAKUMARI - MADURAI
PONDICHERRY - CHENNAI (MADRAS) - HYDERABAD

Vibrant cities, immaculate beaches, rich cultural heritage, peaceful backwaters, standing in contrast with rolling foothills and innumerable ancient monuments – all make Southern India a fascinating travel destination.

Carefully designed to take in the best of Southern India, the Madras Mail covers everything from India's most important cities to spectacular World Heritage Sites and stunning coastlines. The gateways of Mumbai (Bombay) and Chennai (Madras) are key ports of call. They open the door to a more tropical India, slower, tranquil and even more exotic.

TOUR SCHEDULE

Mumbai - Chennai - Hyderabad:
9 October to 23 October, 2025

Hyderabad - Chennai - Mumbai:
16 October to 30 October, 2025

DAILY TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1	Mumbai	DAY 7	Trivandrum and	DAY 12	Chennai
DAY 2	Mumbai		Kanyakumari	DAY 13	Chennai to
DAY 3	Mumbai	DAY 8	Madurai		Hyderabad
DAY 4	Goa	DAY 9	Pondicherry	DAY 14	Hyderabad
DAY 5	Ooty	DAY 10	Chennai (Madras)	DAY 15	Hyderabad
DAY 6	Kochi (Cochin)	DAY 11	Chennai		



MUMBAI

MAHARASHTRA

DAY
1

Your voyage of discovery begins at Mumbai Airport, where you will be met and transferred to the five-star Taj Mahal Hotel, conveniently located at 'The Gateway of India' for a luxurious two-night stay. (Meals today - own arrangements)

MUMBAI

MAHARASHTRA

DAY
2

This morning we take a short cruise, weather permitting, to Elephanta Island, a lush island densely wooded with palm, mango and tamarind trees. The atmospheric and fascinating cave complex, which dates back to the 3rd – 5th century, was designed to honour the life of Lord Shiva, one of the most auspicious Hindu gods and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We return to the city for lunch at the famous seafood Trishna restaurant and in the afternoon you are free to explore Mumbai independently or visit one of the colourful local markets. In the evening a welcome drinks reception is followed by dinner at your hotel where you can get to know your fellow travellers who will share this remarkable Indian odyssey.

MUMBAI

MAHARASHTRA

DAY
3

This morning we visit the 'Dhobi Ghats', an intriguing outdoor laundry. The dhobi is a traditional laundryman who collects your dirty linen, washes it and returns it neatly pressed. The Ghats are the laundries where they practice this historic tradition. Our tour then takes in Fort Bombay and Gandhi's House, now turned into a fascinating museum depicting his inspirational life.

Mid-afternoon sees us boarding our private train, the *Deccan Odyssey*, a perfect way to experience the colour, character and amazing diversity of India. Settle into your beautifully appointed cabin and enjoy the hospitable atmosphere of the Bar Car before experiencing fine Indian or western cuisine in one of the restaurant cars.

An all-day option prior to boarding the *Deccan Odyssey* is to take the 100-year old line from Neral to the hill station of Matheran (at 2,500 feet or 800 metres), 2 hours drive south of Mumbai. As the little train climbs up into the clear mountain air one can view the scenic vista of hills and plains below. The total lack of motorised traffic at Matheran makes it an unusual and peaceful retreat. (Guests will then join the *Deccan Odyssey* at Pavel Junction after descending from Matheran).



OLD GOA

GOA

DAY
4

Goa, renowned for its beaches, temples and world heritage architecture, was the capital of the Portuguese Empire in the east and displays much of this heritage in its architecture today. We take a morning tour to view Basilica De Bom Jesus and Sé Cathedral of Santa Catarina, a towering white structure with a grand baroque interior and the most imposing church in Old Goa.



OOTY

TAMIL NADU

DAY
5

The Nilgiri Mountain Railway, a World Heritage Site, starts from the town of Mettupalayam and takes us on a journey full of twists and turns.

This narrow gauge steam train ascends 30kms on India's only Rack and Pinion Railway with gradients as steep as 1:12 to the town of Coonor, from where for the final 16kms the train picks up speed



on its way to the hill resort at Ooty at 7,228 feet (2,225 metres) famous for its pretty cottages and beautiful Botanical Gardens.

The steam-hauled 'Toy Train' heads through tea and coffee plantations and forest clad hills and with no less than 16 tunnels and tall bridges along with the breathtaking views make a journey to Ooty a delightful experience!





KOCHI (COCHIN)

KERALA

DAY
6

Kochi's beautiful natural harbour and scenic backwaters has meant its history has been rich and varied. The British, Arabs, Portuguese, Dutch and Chinese have all left indelible marks on the architectural development of this city.

We will visit the Dutch Palace and the Jewish Synagogue and then see the Giant Chinese fishing nets that billow from massive teak

and bamboo poles which dot the entrance to the harbour and are still in use today.

The day ends in a visit to the 500-year old Fort Kochi where we will walk through the historical Dutch and Portuguese buildings.

In the evening there is the opportunity to witness a Kathakali Dance performance where the dancers are elaborately made up with paint and masks accompanied by drummers and musicians as they act out a dance drama.



TRIVANDRUM & KANYAKUMARI

KERALA & TAMIL NADU

DAY
7

The *Deccan Odyssey* arrives in Trivandrum in the early morning. After breakfast we visit the Napier Museum and the dominating Padmanabhaswamy Hindu Temple. Following lunch, we head to Kanyakumari which is mainland India's southernmost point, where the three seas - Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea & Bay of Bengal - meet and where the shore temple to the Virgin Goddess Kanyakumari stands.







MADURAI

TAMIL NADU

DAY
8

One of the oldest cities in India situated on the River Vaigai, the Temple City of Madurai was the capital of the Pandya Kingdom, but it was during the reign of the Nayaks that the magnificent Meenakshi-Sundareswarar Temple was constructed, which is one of India's greatest cultural and architectural landmarks. In the evening we will return to the temple to witness a Hindu ritual, an Aarti Ceremony before we continue our journey towards Chennai (Madras).

PONDICHERRY

INDIAN UNION TERRITORY OF PUDUCHERRY

DAY
9

Pondicherry, located on the Bay of Bengal, is the former capital of the French territories in India. To this day there remains a rich French cultural heritage including the French language being widely spoken. Landmarks include Raj Nivas, the residence of the Lt Governor of Pondicherry - a handsome 200-year old building which faces Government Park with its paths and lawns, fountains and sculptures as well as the wide and vibrant beaches and beautiful promenades.

Tonight, we have our final dinner aboard the *Deccan Odyssey*.

CHENNAI (MADRAS)

TAMIL NADU

DAY
10

Chennai (formerly known as Madras), the capital of Tamil Nadu, is located on the legendary Coromandel Coast with a marvellous tradition of music and dance. This city of 4 million people has a pronounced colonial heritage dating back to the 17th century when the British East India Company built a small fort on the banks of the Cooum River and called it Fort St. George.

We arrive in Chennai in the morning where we tour the highlights of the city including Fort St. George and the National Art Gallery. We also make a visit to the 16th century San Thome Basilica, built over the tomb of Thomas Didymus, one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. He is informally referred to as 'Doubting Thomas' because he doubted Jesus' resurrection when first told.

This evening transfer to our luxurious beachfront property of the Taj Fisherman's Cove Resort & Spa for a three-night stay. The Fisherman's Cove, once an impressive Dutch Fort, is now one of the finest beach resorts in Southern India. It is located on the beautiful white sandy beach of Covelong Beach, lapped by the waters from the Bay of Bengal and offers a perfect setting for relaxation at the end of your rail journey through Southern India.



CHENNAI

TAMIL NADU



CHENNAI

TAMIL NADU



Today there is the option to visit Mahabalipuram, a beautiful coastal resort classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The rock cut temples and caves situated here are amongst the finest in the world and originated between 7th and 9th century.

The highlight is a visit to the Shore Temple, which is renowned for its intricate carvings and skilled craftsmanship and is one of the oldest temples in southern India.

We enjoy our final day at leisure in Chennai. Enjoy time relaxing in the lush landscaped gardens of the hotel or take one of the many scenic walkways that lead to Covelong Beach and the Bay of Bengal. Perhaps make time also to rejuvenate yourself with a signature spa treatment from the hotel's excellent Jiva Spa.



CHENNAI TO HYDERABAD

TAMIL NADU to TELANGANA

DAY
13

Today we travel by air from Chennai to Hyderabad, our final destination of the tour, and stay for two nights at the luxury Taj Falaknuma Palace.

Elevated 2,000 feet above Hyderabad this luxurious 5-star property features a blend of colonial and Indian designs. It houses a heritage walk with beautifully crafted objects from the world over and a first-rate spa.

Built in 1894, it is the former palace of the Nizam, rumoured to be the richest man in the world at one time. Overlooking the twinkling City of Pearls, this enchanting palace exudes romance and grandeur that takes you back to when the Nizam ruled Hyderabad.



HYDERABAD

TELANGANA

DAY
14

Today we visit Golconda Fort (Shepherd's Hill) which was the capital of ancient Kingdom of Golkonda and is situated 11km west of Hyderabad.

The city was founded in the 12th century by Kakatiya kings and the massive fort was later built under the reign of the Qutub Shahi Dynasty (c.1518–1687). The fort is a superb example of outstanding engineering and amazing architecture. Its system of acoustics is a big attraction - the sound of clapping at the entrance can be heard at 'Bala Hissar' - the highest point and almost a kilometre away.

From here we travel to the Qutub Shahi Tombs. Located north of the Golconda Fort, the tombs represent the most authentic and majestic display of the Qutub Shahi dynasty's architectural tradition.

We return to the city and visit Charminar. Sultan Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the fifth ruler of the Qutb Shahi dynasty, built Charminar in 1591AD, shortly after he had shifted his capital from Golkonda to what is now known as Hyderabad. He built this famous structure to commemorate the elimination of a

plague epidemic from this city. He is said to have prayed for the end of a plague that was ravaging his city and vowed to build a masjid (mosque) at the very place where he was praying.

In the evening we say our goodbyes to our fellow passengers at a Gala Farewell Dinner in the most magnificent of venues, the 101 Dining Hall of the Taj Falaknuma Palace.

HYDERABAD

TELANGANA

DAY
15

Airport transfers are included for all guests.







GOLDEN EAGLE

DECCAN ODYSSEY



To travel aboard the Deccan Odyssey is to experience the finest traditions of rail travel in a train specially built to cater for the demands of today's most discerning traveller.

On board, the spacious and comfortable cabins, the exceptionally high-quality dining and the attention to detail of the staff combine to create what is effectively a rolling luxury hotel.



Fully air-conditioned, the Deccan Odyssey offers a choice of Deluxe Class en-suite cabins with either twin or double beds – or Presidential Suites, in which each cabin has a separate sitting room and two bathrooms. All the accommodation is spacious, thanks to the generous proportions of the country's broad gauge railway.

Our train includes two splendid Restaurant Cars, offering a wonderful variety of international cuisine. Prepared and served with the highest attention to detail, the Indian and international food offered here is to the highest culinary standards. Traditionally decorated, these beautifully designed cars offer a superb and relaxed setting in which to enjoy your meals and watch India's remarkable scenery unfold.

Another highlight is the splendidly appointed Lounge Car, which includes a well-stocked bar offering the perfect surroundings for a quiet drink with your fellow passengers.

There is a dedicated Spa Car where passengers can enjoy a traditional Ayurvedic massage, enjoy the heat of the sauna, visit the on board hairdressing salon, or for those with a more energetic disposition work out in the gym while the train is underway.

Alternatively, you can relax in the Reception Car which has a library and reading area, a fully-equipped business centre and a large plasma screen.



GOLDEN EAGLE

PRESIDENTIAL SUITES



PRESIDENTIAL SUITE SPECIFICATION

- Sleeps 2 in King Size bed
- 2 En-suite bathrooms with separate shower
- Air-conditioned throughout
- Television screen with USB and HDMI ports
- Hairdryer
- Separate lounge/seating area with writing desk
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water in cabin
- Laundry Service available for a fee

PRESIDENTIAL SUITE DIMENSIONS

CABIN AREA	191sq ft (18sq m)
CABIN LENGTH	27ft 7ins (8.4m)
CABIN WIDTH	7ft 7ins (2.3m)
DOUBLE BED WIDTH	5ft 0ins (1.5m)
BED LENGTH	6ft 5ins (2.0m)
CABINS PER CAR	2



Book a Presidential Suite and also receive room upgrades at each hotel within the itineraries.



GOLDEN EAGLE

DELUXE CLASS



DELUXE CLASS SPECIFICATION

- Sleeps 2 in Twin Bed or Queen Size Bed
- En-suite bathroom with separate shower
- Air-conditioned throughout
- Hairdryer
- Complimentary tea, coffee and mineral water in cabin
- Laundry Service available for a fee

DELUXE CLASS DIMENSIONS


CABIN AREA	95sq ft (9sq m)
CABIN LENGTH	13ft 0ins (3.97m)
CABIN WIDTH	7ft 7ins (2.3m)
BED WIDTH TWIN	3ft 0ins (0.9m)
DOUBLE BED WIDTH	5ft 0ins (1.5m)
BED LENGTH	6ft 5ins (2.0m)
CABINS PER CAR	4



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