



A REPORT
ON
BHARAT DARSHAN-CUM-STUDY TOUR
GROUP-2 (KARNATAKA)

“KARNATAKA inclusive tour by “Akshaya India Tours & Travels (P) Ltd.”

SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT OF FOUNDATION TRAINING PROGRAM (FTP) FOR ASOs DR OF CSS OF CGLE-2023

SUBMITTED BY:

LOKESH KUMAR, ASO (DR) -CGLE-2023

GROUP -2 (KARNATAKA)

OT CODE : B-32

E-MAIL: kumar.lokesh98@gov.in

Dr. MCR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE OF TELANGANA

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

Road No. 25, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad – 500033

DECLARATION

I, LOKESH KUMAR, ASO (DR) of CSS of CGLE-2023 having OT Code: B-32 an Officer Trainee at Dr. MCR HRD Institute of Telangana, Hyderabad, hereby declares that the Bharat Darshan-cum-Study Tour report titled “KARNATAKA inclusive tour by Akshaya India Tours & Travels (P) Ltd.” is my original work and the same has not been submitted for any other training program.

DATE: 14th MAY, 2024

LOKESH KUMAR, ASO (DR)

OT CODE: B-32

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To take Bharat Darshan/Study Tour is a part of our Foundation Training Program (FTP) for ASOs DR of CSS of CGLE-2023. Study tour is quite valuable and important aspect to provide- Building life skills such as team work, Communication, Problem Solving skills and decision making that are possible only through life experiences and exposure to different cultures/traditions/customs signifying unity in diversity and pluralism.

First of all I am very much thankful to DG Sir, Course Director Madam, Proctor Sir and our group (Karnataka) coordinator Sri P. Vinod Goud, Junior Faculty – CDS and I am also thankful to Our Group members (OTs) and various staffs/people who helped us a lot to make this tour successful.

I was able to prepare this study tour report with the co-operation of various people. My sincere thanks to entire team of “Akshaya India Tours & Travels (P) Ltd.” for providing such a memorable and knowledgeable tour.

Thanking You,

LOKESH KUMAR, ASO (DR)

OT CODE: B-32

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Aim & Objective of the Bharat Darshan-cum-Study Tour

Study Tour is one of the integral components of this Cadre Training Program. Study Tour is an official tour with the following Aim & Objectives:

The main aim of study tour is to aid participants/OTs to emphasize experiential learning and offer both group and self directed activities that enable them to explore various cultures, practices, customs, traditions, diversity of people, NGOs and Industries.

Objectives:

- a) To study implementation of a policy/program/scheme.
- b) To get familiarized with developmental and citizen centric activities in rural and urban areas.
- c) To develop team spirit, time management, management of crisis and adaptability to various odd situations.

ITINERARY

Day 01: 28 APRIL 24: HYDERABAD – BANGALORE (FLIGHT) - OOTY

10:00 Hrs: Arrival in Bangalore
 12:30 Hrs: Lunch at Mysore
 16:30 Hrs: Reach Ooty via Mudumalai Bandipur
 17:00 Hrs: Visit Botanical Garden.
 19:00 Hrs: Check in to Hotel & Dinner; Overnight stay at Hotel.

Day 02: 29 APRIL 24: OOTY

07:00 Hrs: Breakfast at Hotel.
 09:00 Hrs: Proceed to visit Dodabetta peak
 11:30 Hrs: Proceed to Coonoor & Dolphins Nose View Point, visit Sims Park, Tea Gardens, Chocolate Factory
 14:00 Hrs: Back to Ooty for Lunch
 15:00 Hrs: Boating in Lake till Evening & other activities near the lake.
 18:00 Hrs: Visit Dr Abdul Kalam Trust, Ooty - NGO
 19:30 Hrs: Back to Hotel with Party Games & Dinner; Overnight stay at Ooty.

Day 03: 30 MAY 24: OOTY – WAYANAD

07:00 Hrs: Breakfast at Hotel.
 09:00 Hrs: Depart from Ooty & Proceed to Wayanad
 Enroute visit Pykara Lake & Dam.
 13:30 Hrs: Enroute have Lunch & visit Chembra Peak, Neelimala View Point.
 16:30 Hrs: Depart for Wayanad Hotel & Check in to the hotel in Wayanad.
 19:30 Hrs: Dinner & Overnight stay at Wayanad.

Day 04: 01 MAY 24: WAYANAD - COORG

08:00 Hrs: Breakfast at Hotel.
 09:00 Hrs: Depart from Wayanad to Coorg Enroute visit Kuruva Island
 14:00 Hrs: Lunch at Restaurant
 16:00 Hrs: Reach Coorg & Visit Raja Seat View Point & Swami Vivekananda Medical Mission NGO
 18:00 Hrs: Check in to the hotel & Dinner.
 Overnight stay at Coorg

Day 05: 02 MAY 24: COORG

07:00 Hrs: Breakfast at Hotel.
 08:00 Hrs: Early morning Proceed to Talacauvery and Bagamandala. 12:30 Hrs: Back to Madikeri in the afternoon
 13:30 Hrs: Lunch at restaurant
 15:00 Hrs: Afternoon visit Abbey Falls, Shopping
 18:00 Hrs: Dinner & Overnight stay at Coorg.

Day 06: 03 MAY 24: COORG – MYSORE

07:00 Hrs: Breakfast at Hotel.
 08:00 Hrs: Depart from Coorg to Mysore Enroute visit Tibetan Monastery

14:00 Hrs: Lunch at Restaurant
 15:00 Hrs: Mysore Maharaja Palace
 17:00 Hrs: Check in & Depart for Brindavan Garden
 20:30 Hrs: Dinner & Overnight stay at Mysore

DAY 07: 04 MAY 24: MYSORE - BANGALORE – HYDERABAD (FLIGHT)

07:00 Hrs: Breakfast at Hotel.
 08:00 Hrs: Visit Chamundi Hills
 11:00 Hrs: Pratham NGO & later Lunch
 14:30 Hrs: Departure to Bangalore Enroute visit Srirangapatna Temple.

Akshaya India Tours & Travels (P) Ltd.

Akshaya India Tours & Travels Pvt Ltd is a Leading Tour Operator & Travel agency based in Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad in India. Established in the year 1996, the company is now entering its 25th year of Operations in the travel field .

Akshaya India is involved in organising Package Tours and travel activities to Corporates, FIT, Families, Students. Services Include: Airline Ticketing - Domestic & International, Passport, Visa Services, Domestic & International Tours, Travel Insurance, Train Tickets, Car and Coach Rentals.

Website

<http://www.akshayaindia.com>

Industry

Travel Arrangements

Company size

11-50 employees

Headquarters

Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Type

Privately Held

Founded

1996

Specialties

MICE, Leisure Tours, Group Tours, VISA ASSISTANCE, Air Ticketing, International Tours, India Tours, and Family Tours

DAY-1



On 28th April, 2024 in the early morning at 5:30AM, our group filled with joy and enthusiasm boarded in bus from Godavari Hostel, Dr. MCR HRD IT for an eventful journey/ Bharat Darshan to KARNATAKA and adjoining areas. We reached Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad by bus in just 1.5 hrs at 7:15 AM. We have a scheduled flight from HYD Airport to Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru and it was scheduled departure at 8:50 AM. We have some time in between so we took some group & individual photos at HYD Airport.



After a journey of around 1 hrs we landed at Bengaluru Airport at 10:00 AM with happy and smiley faces. We received by Leo from Akshaya India Tours & Travels (P) Ltd. and then headed to Mysore via Bus. After a 4 hrs long journey (with a small break of 15-20 minutes in mid-way) we reached Mysore. During bus journey we enjoyed a lot (Music, Dance, Singing, etc.). We had lunch at The President Hotel in Mysore and after that we proceed to Ooty via **Bandipur & Mudumalai Tiger**

Reserve. During this way to Ooty we passed through Bandipur & Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and saw many animals, birds, vegetation and clicked some photographs for good memory.



We had a tea break also in the late evening nearby Mudumalai Reserve and observe many things there like People gathering, traffic, a large number of visitors/tourists, vegetation, culture, employment, etc. The tall trees, hill stations and lush green vegetation confirmed the end of the long yet enjoyable journey as we entered in Ooty and reached Hotel at 11:50 PM. We had lunch there and good sleep also. The weather was cold enough at night in Ooty (Temperature: 16 -18 degree celcius)

Learnings & Conclusion :

- As it was very long journey so always be ready for it.
- It is not necessary that what you have planned will be completely successful as we planned to visit Botanical Garden on very same day.
- We came across a rich diversity of rare plants and trees with plenty of scenic spots and many birds, animals, etc.
- We got know about **TRIBAL ECO DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** when we had a tea break at Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Theppakadu.

DAY-2

DODDABETTA PEAK – Eternal Love for Adventure



On 29th April, 2024, in the morning we reached at Doddabetta Peak. The surrounding lush green vegetation with beautiful sky fascinated and really soothed us. Conquering summit is a great physical achievement. But more than that, it gives emotional and spiritual satisfaction. It satisfies man's eternal love for adventure.

Doddabetta Peak is the highest mountain in the Nilgiri Mountains at 2,637 meters (8,652 ft.). There is a reserved forest are around the peak. It is

located in Udagamandalam, Nilgiri District, Tamil Nadu, India. It is surrounded with rhododendron trees, thick coarse grass and flowering sub-alpine shrubs. There is an observatory at the top of Doddabetta with two telescopes available for the public. It is run by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation.

The TEA FACTORY- Insights into the tea production processes



After we were done enjoying the adventures at Doddabetta Peak, we moved ahead towards The Tea Factory which is just 5 minutes away. The Tea Factory located on Doddabetta Road surrounded by emerald green tea plantations, the museum's space is one acre and offers visitors a chance to know the evolution from the origin to the present and witness every stage of tea production processes. It has a variety of preserved tea leaves on display. It has also an adjacent souvenir shop where you can try and buy various kinds of tea. At the end we were given free tea to sample. There is also a chocolates Factory and outlet to buy tea and chocolates. We also bought some kinds of tea packets & Chocolates.

OOTY BOAT HOUSE- Wonder, aesthetic and thrilling experience



Ooty lake is an artificial lake constructed by John Sullivan in 1824. Boating on this man-made lake is an elegant way to enjoy the serene view and rich biodiversity; taking a slow pedal boat ride make the aesthetic experience extra addictive.

The lake is surrounded by groves of Eucalyptus trees and the boat house, which adjoins the lake, was opened by the Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation.

Learnings & Conclusion:

- All those who rise and lead to the top are like mountains — rock-solid in core — they remain unmoved by challenges and move others with their humility.
- A quick tour of the Factory, and we all know how the teas are processed, from plucking to packaging.
- Being familiar with the water and knowing where rocks and shallows while boating in ooty lake.
- Overall we know how the economic, cultural and employment activity happens at tourism places.

DAY-3

Botanical Garden – A deep sense of tranquility



Out of all the tourist attractions in Ooty, the Botanical Gardens stand out as the leading site to visit. The surrounding and the freshness of these well maintained gardens, provide a deep sense of tranquility. This stretched green land showcases thousands of exotic and indigenous floras, making it an ideal place for the nature lovers. The visitors are allured by the vibrant flowers, extraordinary collection of trees, shrubs, ferns, herbs and more. Ooty Botanical Gardens are organized into six areas for better management, which includes: Lower Garden, New Garden, Conservatory Garden, Nurseries, Fountain Terrace and Italian Garden.

DAY-4

Edakkal Caves, Waynad, Kerala - Historical and Cultural Vibrancy

The study tour to Edakkal Caves in the Wayanad district of Kerala offered a unique opportunity to delve into the rich historical and cultural heritage of the region. The tour provided valuable insights into the archaeological significance, cultural importance, and geological marvels of the caves.

The petroglyphs found in the Edakkal Caves are believed to date back to the Neolithic era, with some estimates suggesting they could be over 8,000 years old. These rock engravings depict various figures, symbols, and motifs, including human and animal figures, weapons, and other geometric shapes. These engravings are considered as a valuable record of prehistoric human activities, beliefs, and cultural practices.



The Edakkal Caves hold immense cultural significance for the indigenous tribes of Kerala, particularly the Kurichiyas and Kurumbas. These communities regard the caves as sacred sites and often conduct rituals and ceremonies in the vicinity. The caves also feature in local folklore and legends, further enhancing their cultural importance.



Kappad Beach, Kozikode, Kerala - insights into the nature's beauty, local community and ecosystem.

The study tour to Kappad Beach was a memorable and enriching experience, offering us a blend of relaxation, recreation, education, and cultural immersion. Through exploration, engagement, and reflection, we gained a deeper understanding of the beach's historical, cultural, and ecological significance, while also forging connections with the local community.



We had the opportunity to relax on the golden sands, swim in the clear blue waters, and engage in nature walks along the shoreline which had allowed us to appreciate the diverse flora and fauna of the coastal ecosystem.

Learnings & Conclusion :

- We gained a deeper appreciation for the historical significance of the Edakkal Caves, recognizing them as a treasure trove of prehistoric art and cultural artifacts and Interactions with local communities enriched participants' understanding of the cultural heritage and spiritual significance.
- We gained a deeper appreciation for the historical significance of Kappad Beach as a site of maritime exploration and cultural exchange and awareness among us about the importance of environmental conservation and responsible tourism practices in protecting fragile coastal ecosystems like Kappad Beach.

DAY-5

Abbey Falls, Kodagu, Karnataka – The mesmerizing beauty

The study tour to Abbey Falls provided an enriching experience in the heart of the Western Ghats, showcasing the mesmerizing beauty and ecological significance of this natural wonder. It is



located near Madikeri in the Kodagu district of Karnataka. Abbey Falls is a popular tourist destination renowned for its picturesque

surroundings, cascading waterfall, and rich biodiversity. The journey to Abbey Falls involved a short trek through lush greenery, providing an opportunity to soak in the sights and sounds of the surrounding forest. The trek added to the sense of adventure and anticipation as we made our way to the waterfall.



A Scenic View

Ela Camping, Madikeri, Coorg, Karnataka – A memorable Evening

Ela Camping Spot, located in Madikeri(Karnataka), offered a unique and memorable outdoor experience to us. Nestled amidst the verdant hills and coffee plantations of Coorg, ELA Glamping offered a one-of-a-kind retreat that combined the charm of outdoor camping with the indulgence of upscale amenities.

Riverside camping has added an element of adventure and connection to nature.



A crackling campfire under the starry sky for a memorable evening at Ela Camping Spot. Campfires provide the perfect opportunity for bonding with friends and family, sharing stories, singing songs, and enjoying delicious meals cooked over an open flame.

Ela camping spot had a tranquil and secluded atmosphere, providing a peaceful retreat away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Spot also offered us to enjoy outdoor activities and enjoying with friends.

Learnings & Conclusion :

- A deeper appreciation for the importance of preserving natural ecosystems and biodiversity hotspots like Abbey Falls for future generations.
- From nature walks and birdwatching to fishing and bathing in the river, we could experience the natural beauty of the surroundings.

DAY-6

Namdroling Monastery, Kushalnagar, Karnataka – Enlightenment or Awakening Experience

Namdroling Monastery provided us an insightful journey into the spiritual, cultural, and architectural wonders of one of the largest Tibetan Buddhist monasteries outside Tibet. Located in Bylakuppe, Karnataka, Namdroling Monastery, also known as the Golden Temple, it is a revered pilgrimage site and a center for Buddhist learning and practice.

Spiritual Enrichment: Participants gained a deeper appreciation for the principles of Tibetan Buddhism, including compassion, wisdom, and mindfulness, through immersive experiences and interactions with resident monks.

Cultural Understanding: The tour provided insights into the rich cultural heritage and traditions of Tibetan Buddhism, fostering cross-cultural understanding and appreciation.

Architecture: The Stunning architecture, with intricate designs, vibrant colors, and traditional Tibetan motifs adorning the temple buildings. The main attraction is the Golden Temple, which features three towering golden statues of Guru Padmasambhava (also known as Guru





Golden Statues and Prayer Offering Ceremony

Learnings & Conclusion :

Through exploration, meditation, and community engagement, we gained valuable insights into the spiritual, cultural, and humanitarian aspects of Buddhist practice, leaving us with a renewed sense of purpose, connection, and compassion. The monastery served as a beacon of wisdom, peace, and harmony, inspiring us to embody the teachings of Tibetan Buddhism in our lives and communities.

DAY-7

NGO Visit – The Organization For The Development of People (O.D.P.), Mysuru



Immediately after breakfast we left for NGO visit by bus. ODP is a voluntary non-profit organization established on 4th January, 1984. ODP is the formal name of the Mysore Diocesan Social Service Society registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act.

ODP Aim : To develop and strengthen under-privileged people through a participatory approach, by organizing community-based people's groups to become self managed and self-reliant. ODP believes that "CHANGE is PROGRESS" and ODP working through peoples groups and implementing various development interventions to bring about this change.

Covered Area : ODP is presently working in the 4 districts of Mysore, Mandya, Chamarajanagar and Kodagu, covering 477 villages and 89 rural town/slums in 202 panchayats of 18 talukas.

Role & Identity of the Organization : The legal identity of ODP remains as a Non-profit organization registered under Society Registration Act 1960. Its identity in the future as :

1. Implementing organization: With the years of experience, expertise, credibility, recognition that ODP has gained through implementation of various development projects at the grass root level, it has created a strong base and an identity as an implementing organization and hence, would continue with its role of an implementing organization and will continue to facilitate community development initiatives directly with the community.

2. Capacity Building Organization: By being an implementing organization for years, ODP has gained concrete hold on the techniques of addressing various development issues and thus has immense potential to transfer the know-how and skill which they possess through their experience in the sector. During the past few years ODP has already started providing support to other organizations for their capacity enhancement, through its different departments. Many NGOs, government and other agencies has sought assistance from ODP to build their own capacities. With this opportunity/demand, backed by vast experience and credibility ODP now will concretely plan to get recognized as “Capacity building institution” as well.

To achieve this, the organization will establish a separate division within the organization and will develop and hire experts on various issues/themes. ODP possess enough infrastructure to organize different events for capacity building of other organization. ODP will have propose and mobilize projects for capacity building and will also generate revenue through service provided by organization.

3. Nodal Agency : ODP is recognized as a credible organization in the area and thus has been assigned the role of Nodal agency for government and other agencies. ODP would continue with the role of being Nodal agency for government and other agencies and also take up new offers.

4. Advocacy and Lobbying : Unlike the past, now India is considered to be a strong global economy and thus possess the capacity and resources to fulfill its responsibility towards the citizens of the country. Considering this contextual change ODP would strive to work toward making the government more accountable and responsible towards the nation. ODP in the coming years will involve itself in influencing government policies/decisions making bodies/implementer and make them responsible and accountable. ODP will capitalize its major strength of the People’s Organization through awakening, organizing and capacitating them for People Centered Advocacy.

Mysore Maharaja Palace – The symbol of grandeur & royal heritage



The Palace of Mysore (also known as the Amba Vilas Palace) is a historical palace in the city of Mysore in Karnataka. Designed by the English Architect, Henry Irwin, the Mysore Palace dominates the skyline of Mysore. A three storied structure in the Indo-Saracenic style built between 1897-1912, the palace has beautifully designed square towers at cardinal points, covered with domes. It used to be the official residence of the Wadiyar dynasty and the seat of the Kingdom of Mysore.

The Durbar Hall with its ornate ceiling and sculpted pillars and the Kalyanamantapa (marriage pavilion) with its glazed tiled flooring and stained glass, domed ceiling are worth noting. Intricately carved doors, the golden howdah (elephant seat), paintings as well as the fabulous, jewel encrusted golden throne (displayed during Dasara) are amongst the palace's other treasures.

The walled palace complex houses the Residential Museum (incorporating some of the Palace's living quarters), temples and shrines including the Shwetha Varahaswamy temple. The palace is illuminated on Sundays, Public Holidays as well as during the Dasara Celebrations where 97,000 electric bulbs are used to illuminate it.

The Palace has four entrances. Main entrance is called "Jaya Maarthaanda" to the east, "Jayarama" to the North, "Balarama" to the South and "Varaha" to the west.



A Group Photo



Gallery View

Trinesvaraswamy Temple – Richness in Gods



The Trinesvaraswamy Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva is a beautiful temple located inside the Mysore Maharaja Palace. The temple of Shiva meaning God with three eyes. This is a temple facing the fort and marvelous architecture. we realised the differences in the cultural practices between the north and south. A huge temple, completely carved from rocks seemed like a different world in its entity. Each pillar had a deity carved in it with acute precision.

Shopping – for a good memory



We exit from the temple and went for shopping and lunch. Some of us purchased Silk Sarees, Suits, Shirts, Natural Oils, Body Lotion and Wooden Craft item for good memory.



Return Journey – An Experience Well deserved

We knew we didn't much time before we back to the training institute. We sat, sang, danced, played and enjoyed the really less time we could spend together. As the sun set we were counting back with much skepticism. We had a flight from Bangalore Airport to Hyderabad Airport at 23:00 hrs of 4th May, 2024, we were back to what we call our Training Institute "Dr. MCR HRD IT, Hyderabad." And with this, our tour came to an end.

My & Other OTs Review :

From my personal point of view this tour was very amazing as well as very important from the diversity of India such as Socio-economic, cultural, ecological and geographical point of view. I was witnessed so many things which are totally different from North India. Overall a very nice experience.

I had a wonderful and memorable tour round the southern part of India. I have a lifetime great experience.

-Chaudhary Sachin Shreechand, OT Code – B07

So many memorable and exciting parts on this tour. It was a truly incredible and knowledgeable.

-Alok Tomar, OT Code – B14

The tour was an amazing from start to finish- so much colour, such a variety of places, fantastic journey but most of all truly lovely people.

-Aditya Singh, OT Code – A68

Conclusion

Our Bharat Darshan-cum-Study Tour centered around places which have historical importance, temples and beaches, water-falls, Mountain Peaks, Tea Factory, Tea Plantations, NGOs in Karnataka and adjoining areas, likely provided a fascinating blend of spirituality and coastal beauty. Exploring the intricate architecture and cultural significance of temples, alongside the tranquil shores of Beach and Water-falls and the rich diversity and vegetation, must have created a balanced and enriching experience. The tour likely offered a glimpse into the cultural tapestry and natural wonders of these regions, leaving us with a tapestry of memories from this spiritual, historical and natural exploration.