

# India - Getting There (II)

Arthur - Weppner Wedding

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009

## Buying International Plane Tickets

The most expensive part of this trip will be traveling to India. Tickets will run from \$1000-\$1500, your final destination should be Goa, India by July 16<sup>th</sup>. Be aware that many Indian cities go by colonial names but these names have been officially replaced by their native counterparts (Bombay → Mumbai, Bangalore → Bengaluru). If you are planning on making this trip you should probably purchase tickets soon (March or early April). This is a guess however, the ticket prices now are pretty good but it is hard to predict what will happen in the future. If you make a purchase please tell us

([weppnesp@eckerd.edu](mailto:weppnesp@eckerd.edu), [RoxanaArthur@aol.com](mailto:RoxanaArthur@aol.com)) so we can do our best to be there along the way for you.

A good start is looking at [Expedia.com](http://Expedia.com) and [Travelocity.com](http://Travelocity.com) to get an idea of the range of costs. You can also engage a travel agent (it is recommended that you find an Indian travel agent located in America, an Indian restaurant is a good place to ask how to solicit a good one). Especially if you want to have a multi-layered vacation we recommend you engage one. If you want to do it yourself, and it is very possible, here are some tips:

[1] Arrange a domestic flight to get to New York, Newark, Chicago, or

Washington D.C. Flights are cheaper from these major airports.

[2] You should purchase a round trip ticket to either Mumbai or Bengaluru.

Roxana and I will be in Mumbai till July 15<sup>th</sup> then we will head to Goa, if you arrive in Mumbai before then make sure you tell us so we can pick you up at the airport and escort you to a hotel. Landing in Mumbai usually happens in the early morning so be prepared for an interesting night.

[3] Airports are not up to par compared to United States airports, it will be very

chaotic! Immigration can take about two hours (passport, shots, and Indian visa should be secure, see previous guide) and then if you have to connect to an Indian domestic flight it is often in another terminal a few kilometers away (Mumbai – 4 km away) which could take another 2 hours. So please plan for at least a four hour layover in Mumbai, it might only take 2 hours but it is better to be safe. Friends and the Internet warn travelers about the New Delhi airport. It is recommended that you avoid this airport.

The easiest airport to land in, especially if you are un-escorted is Bengaluru. It is the newest airport, it is all one building, and it is a smaller city (4<sup>th</sup> largest in India). It also has the advantage of being close to Goa and near the wedding parties travel plans after the wedding if you choose to join us. Unfortunately most Bengaluru (Bangalore) flights first must go through Mumbai first (where immigration will occur and you should have at least a four hour layover). However there are some direct flights from London to Bengaluru for about \$1300.

[4] You should then get a domestic flight to Goa (about \$50 one way). There is no hurry for this, these can be purchased in May, June, or even July. If you would like to travel with Roxana and I please tell us and we will email you our plans and even help purchase the tickets if you would like.

[5] Flying back you should either fly out of Goa or Bengaluru. Roxana, I, family, friends are planning a trip after the wedding and all are invited (a future guide will detail the itinerary). We plan on seeing historical and archaeological sites in southern India. Those who join us and need to leave by July 25<sup>th</sup> should fly out of Bengaluru (we will be near the city then to drop you off). Roxana and I are heading back to the states on July 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. Roxana and I will fly from Goa to Mumbai to New York, you can also accompany us then if you would like. We will be happy to help you on your trip back, please tell us your travel plans if you are coming.

[6] Very good Indian-American friends of ours, Mike and Mansie (the people who introduced us!), are traveling to the wedding starting on July 13<sup>th</sup> from Washington DC, they will land in London on the 14<sup>th</sup> and then proceed to Mumbai via British Airways, arriving early morning the 15<sup>th</sup>. They are staying at Mansie's parents for a day and then they will travel on to Goa on the 16<sup>th</sup> via a domestic flight. They would also be happy to escort you through the Mumbai airport and into Mumbai and finally Goa. If interested you can email us and we can give you more details and get you in contact with Mansie. She was my first guide through India, you will be in good hands with her!

Coming up ...

Hotels

Trip after the wedding

- Cheers, Steve & Roxana

