India - Post Wedding(IV)

Arthur - Weppner Wedding July 18th, 2009

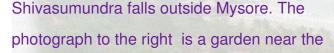
. We will be leaving for our post wedding excursion on July 20th and we will visit in the next week Hampi, Mysore (Mysuru) and perhaps Coorg in south central India. We will then head to Bangalore and then fly back to Mumbai by July 28th. In this trip you will get a flavor of the south Indian tapestry of culture, an area where diverse peoples came together in the past 1000 years.

[1] **Mysore** is a state in southern central India and up till Indian independence in 1947 it was a separate kingdom which thrived starting in the 14th century. The most popular language

spoken is Kannada (which has been recognized as a classical language dating back 2000 years). The city has quite a bit of architectural and ecological sites surrounding it. Roxana's brother, Rohan, a scientist lives and works outside of Mysore. The photograph to the right is the Mysore Palace at night. The photograph below is that of









Mysore river. Mysore is a center of rich culture and pristine beauty which is one of the top tourist spots to visit in India and we will spend 3-4 days there.

[2] Hampi – An archaeological site located near the village of Hampi which contains uncovered ruins from the empire of Vijayanagara (12th -13th century), it has beautiful temples

and again surrounded by the natural beauty of southern central India. Roxana, her mom, and sister, have been there and found it to be a relatively undiscovered treasure.



Traveling around southern India we will rely on public transportation, rented vehicles and informal lodging. Ingrid and Ivan (Roxana's

parents) and Roxana will be our guides. I found

that near major cities money by ATM is fair (most banks will charge a 2.5%-5% fee when translating from dollars to rupees). Some prefer the travelers check, they are less convenient but the rate is usually better (1%-3%). Hotels will be about \$30-\$50 a night. The menu above appeared in a restaurant in Hampi, the exchange rate is about 50 rupees to the dollar, not bad for lunch (and you thought you could not get bad Italian in India?)! I did not know macaroni could be spelled in so many interesting ways ...

Ivan, Ingrid, and Roxana are looking forward to showing you southern India!