

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY TOURS

GUJARAT INDIA

19 Days

December 28, 2008 – January 15, 2009

led by

PROFESSOR JONATHAN MARK KENOYER

University of Wisconsin

SOUTHERN INDIA

24 Days

February 9 – March 5, 2009

led by

PROFESSOR JOHN M. FRITZ

University of Pennsylvania



GUJARAT – India's westernmost state, Gujarat, is one of its least visited and most colorful. Birthplace of Gandhi, stronghold of Jainism and Hinduism, its history is intertwined with the earliest civilizations of India. Here where the Indian desert meets the monsoon lands of peninsular India, the great civilization of the Indus Valley flourished as early as 3500 BC. The process of spinning cotton into yarn and weaving it into cloth was developed by the Indus people and became an important item of trade from the ancient ports along the Cambay coast to distant cities of Mesopotamia. Today Gujarat's capital, Ahmedabad, dense with relics of its Mughal grandeur, is a thriving commercial center, famed for its textiles, museums and traditional arts. Highlights of the tour include the palace-filled cultural center of Vadodara, Krishna's capital at Dwarka, where with special permission we visit Dwarkanath Temple, Palitana's 863 elaborately ornate Jain temples, the ancient Indus cities of Lothal and Dholavira, as well as a relaxing day at Sasan-Gir Sanctuary, where one might see the nearly extinct Asiatic lion. Lastly, we visit the walled city of Bhuj in Kutch, the most remote and charming area of Gujarat. Bhuj, with its narrow alleys, carved balconies, old palaces and royal mausoleum, will be our base for visiting Dholavira and the many colorful villages of the Rann of Kutch. At every turn we will confront evidence of Gujarat's long history, the vibrant colors of village life, its music, dance and crafts and the welcoming smiles of the Gujarati people.

SOUTHERN INDIA – A visit to the south of India, where Hindu traditions survive most strongly, is essential for understanding India's religious and cultural history. The tour begins with the great rock-cut cave shrines of Ellora and Ajanta, which show in their extraordinary architecture, sculpture and wall paintings the development of Buddhist and Jain beliefs and practices, as well as the transformation of Hinduism. We proceed through the lush rolling landscape of temple towers rising above the palm groves of Tamil Nadu State, visiting the first constructed temples at Kanchipuram and culminating with the Meenakshi Temple of Madurai, vibrant with living tradition. After a brief rest at the Periyar Game Reserve, we continue by way of the rich tea and spice plantations and active waterways of Kerala to the Malabar Coast and Cochin, notable for its Jewish and Christian communities. Among the unique sites of Karnataka State are the rock-cut temples at Badami, the ruins of the last great southern India empires, Vijayanagara, at Hampi, and, at Mysore, the monuments of Tipu Sultan. The tour concludes at the former Portuguese colony of Goa. Throughout we will explore vibrant bazaars, sample local cuisine and attend traditional musical and dance performances.

GUJARAT

JONATHAN MARK KENOYER is an Associate Professor teaching archaeology and ancient technology at the University of Wisconsin. Raised in India, he completed his PhD in South Asian archaeology at the University of California, Berkeley. He speaks several South Asian languages, including Hindi and Urdu. Dr. Kenoyer has worked in India and Pakistan for the past 26 years, with a focus on the Indus Valley civilization. His special interest in ancient technologies and crafts has led him to study a broad range of cultural periods in South Asia as well as other regions of the world. Dr. Kenoyer has excavated at Mohenjo-daro and since 1986, he has been the Co-Director and Field Director of the Harappa Archaeological Research Project, a long-term study of urban development in the Indus Valley. He is also Guest Curator at the Elvehjem Museum of Art, where he planned an exhibition, Ancient Cities of the Indus Valley Civilization, which toured the United States in 1998. Dr. Kenoyer has led three tours to Gujarat and Pakistan for Archaeological Tours.

Sunday, Monday, December 28 & 29, 2008: Depart New York in the evening, arriving into Mumbai late Monday evening, and transfer to the Leela Kempinski Airport Hotel.

Tuesday, Wednesday, December 30 & 31: VADODARA: We will have an orientation lecture before lunch and transfer back to the airport for our flight to Vadodara, the capital of the princely Gaekwad state prior to Independence. During our two-day stay here we will visit the Palace Museum, the prehistoric collection at the University Museum and spend a day visiting Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park. Taj Residency Hotel. (B/L/D)

Thursday, January 1, 2009: AHMEDABAD: We drive west through India's famous cotton-growing region to the port of Cambay (Khambhat), from which this precious commodity was traded in antiquity to ports as remote as Babylon. We will visit the Jumma Masjid, one of the earliest mosques in Gujarat, and the bead-makers' quarter, where beads are still shaped and drilled using ancient techniques. We then continue to Ahmedabad, the new capital of Gujarat. Le Meridien Ahmedabad Hotel. (B/L/D)

Friday, January 2: AHMEDABAD: Founded in 1411 by Ahmed Shah I (King of Gujarat), Ahmedabad had a royal citadel with extensive fortifications. Its city walls had 12 gates, 139 towers and nearly 6,000 battlements, required due to constant wars with the Rajputs. The city has a long tradition of excellent craftsmanship, particularly in textile manufacturing and trade. Our tour of the city includes the 15th-century Bhadra fortress, Rani Sipri Mausoleum and Mosque, where we find extraordinarily delicate pierced-stone windows in typical Gujarati style, and the Great Masjid Mosque, housing Ahmed Shah's mausoleum. We will also visit the Calico Textile Museum and Gandhi's Ashram. (B/L)

Saturday, January 3: AHMEDABAD: Today's excursion brings us to Modhera. The shrines and chapels of the 11th-century Surya Sun Temple form an impressive complex, which is a forerunner of the famous Sun Temple at Konarak, built 200 years later. The nearby ancient Hindu capital, Anahilavada, has been replaced largely by the 16th-century Jain city of Patan. We will see the older district's beautifully carved wooden houses as well as some of its 108 Jain temples. Time permitting, we will find examples of the legendary patola weaves produced by Patan's master weavers. (B/L/D)

Sunday, January 4: AHMEDABAD: Most typical for Gujarat and Ahmedabad in particular are the step-wells known as *baoli*, elaborately constructed subterranean monuments centered on water. They not only supply water but serve as resting places with pavilions, galleries and richly decorated rooms. We will visit India's most beautiful step-well, at Adalaj, a few kilometers out of the city, and complete today's touring at the Shreyas Folk Museum, which houses traditional mirror work as well as tribal clothes and decorations. (B/L)

Monday, January 5: BHAVNAGAR: Leaving Ahmedabad, we travel southwest to Lothal. Dated to the end of the 3rd millennium BC, Lothal is one of the four most important Indus culture cities (Mohenjo-daro and Harappa in Pakistan, Lothal and Kalibangan in India). Excavations have revealed large-scale public and private buildings, a well-ordered grid of paved streets, granaries and a gigantic water storage tank, testifying to the city's high level of organization. After visiting the excellent on-site museum, we continue to the port city of Bhavnagar. Nilambagh Palace Hotel. (B/L/D)

Tuesday, January 6: BHAVNAGAR: An early departure for Palitana, from which we will climb the more than 3,000 steps (doolie swing chairs are available) to Shatrunjaya, one of Jainism's holiest pilgrimage places. Over a period of 900 years, 863 white marble temples have been built here, giving their benefactors great merit. Some of the larger temples, such as Adinath and Chaumukh, are veritable cities within cities, each with its own protective walls. This fabulous experience will be enhanced by white-clad pilgrims circumambulating the mountain in solemn processions. (B/L/D)

Wednesday, Thursday, January 7 & 8: SASAN-GIR: We drive south, turning inland and continue to the **Lion Safari Camp**, a permanent tented camp with en-suite bathrooms, in the **Sasan-Gir Lion Sanctuary**. We will have several safaris, in hopes of seeing some of the nearly extinct Asiatic lions and leopards as well as the four-horned Indian antelope and many bird species unique to India. (B/L/D)

Friday, January 9: GONDAL: We will spend the day in **Junagadh**, where archaeological finds have established its early history to pre-Indus times. We will see edicts, similar to those found in northern Pakistan, inscribed on a boulder by the emperor Ashoka in the 3rd century BC, as well as ancient Buddhist caves dug and carved with the image of Buddha at least 1,500 years ago. The **Mahabat Maqbara mausoleum**, with its lovely silver doors and intricate architecture, and the old fort from which the city took its name, can be viewed from the outside. At the end of this very full day we continue to **Gondal**, where we will occupy two converted palaces for the night, **Riverside and Orchard Palace Hotels**. (B/L/D)

Saturday, Sunday, January 10 & 11: JAMNAGAR: We continue to **Jamnagar** and spend the afternoon visiting the city, including the collection of Saurashtran sculpture and pottery at the **Lakhota Palace**, the unusual **Manekbhai Muktidham** cremation grounds covered with statues of Indian gods, goddesses and saints, and the bustling bazaar renowned for silver and nutcrackers. This evening we will visit the lively **Bala Hanuman Temple**, where there has been continuous devotional chanting 24-hours a day since 1964. Sunday we visit **Dwarka**. We have obtained special permission to visit **Dwarkanath**, one of the four most holy Hindu pilgrim shrines in India and the site of Krishna's capital after he fled from Mathura. **Express Hotel**. (B/L/D)

Monday, January 12: BHUJ: A fascinating drive brings us to **Bhuj**, a walled city that until recently locked its gates at night. In route, we will stop at the largely unexcavated Harappan site of **Shikarpur**, which is situated on the edge of the ancient coastline. During our stay here we will have ample time to explore Bhuj's maze-like streets and alleys, overhung with elaborately carved balconies, as well as the **Kutch Museum**, renowned for its large collection of Indo-Scythian inscriptions. We will also visit the old palaces and richly decorated temples, and comb the bazaars for the best Gujarat bandhana embroidery and silver. We will spend the next three nights at the **Ilark Hotel, a new small hotel**. (B/L/D)

Tuesday, Wednesday, January 13 & 14: BHUJ: Traveling into the **Rann of Kutch**, we will visit the newly excavated Harappan site of **Kanmer** and the much larger city of **Dholavira (Kotada)**, one of the five major cities of the Indus civilization. Excavations, still in progress, have revealed the city's fine stone architecture, monumental gateways and broad streets, large reservoirs as well as its extensive drainage system. Wednesday's touring brings us into the countryside to visit villages, each specializing in a unique craft. Our farewell dinner of Kutchi specialties will be accompanied by Kutchi music. (B/L/1-D)

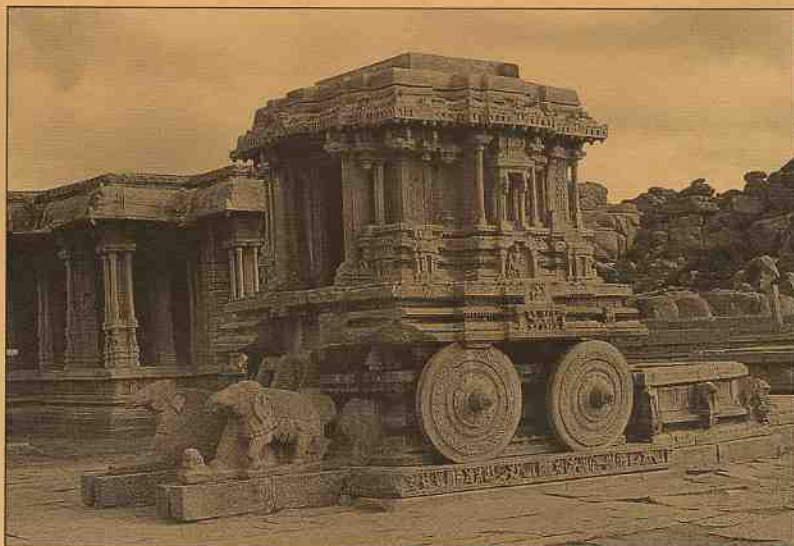
Thursday, January 15: After a morning at leisure, we fly back to **Mumbai**, with time for dinner before transferring back to the airport for our flights home. (B/L/D)

This tour should be considered strenuous. It requires a great deal of walking as well as step climbing to temples and other sites. Travelers to Gujarat should be prepared for early days and long drives. Hotel accommodations vary from very high to very basic quality. They are the best available for visiting these fabulous sites. Only those willing to accept these conditions should consider taking this tour.

COST OF TOUR: \$7450
(includes international and inter-India
group airfare from New York)

Single Supplement: \$1350

Land Arrangements Only: \$6150
(without international group airfare)



SOUTHERN INDIA

JOHN M. FRITZ is Adjunct Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania and is also a Research Associate at the National Museum of History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Professor Fritz has carried out research in southern India since 1981, principally at the ruined city of Vijayanagara, near Hampi. He was co-curator of an exhibition, *Vijayanagara: Where Kings and Gods Meet*, which was shown throughout Europe as well as at the Natural History Museum in New York. His work also includes the documentation of a Mughal garden that was part of the Taj Mahal complex at Agra and extensive publications on Vijayanagara as well as other Indian sites. Professor Fritz has led eight tours to India for Archaeological Tours.

Monday, Tuesday, February 9 & 10: MUMBAI (Bombay): Our departure from New York is in the evening. Our arrival into Mumbai is late Tuesday evening. Transfer to the **Taj Mahal Intercontinental Hotel**.

Wednesday, February 11: MUMBAI: After an orientation lecture we will spend the afternoon visiting Mumbai's major monuments and the **Prince of Wales Museum**, which houses one of the finest collections of art and archaeology in the country, including a wonderful gallery of Mughal miniatures and Pahari School paintings. (B/D)

Thursday, February 12: AURANGABAD: This morning we walk to the **Gateway of India** for the one-hour boat trip to the island of **Elephanta**, in Bombay harbor. Our touring here will be to the 6th/7th-century cave temple dedicated to Shiva. After lunch a short flight will bring us to **Aurangabad**. **Taj Residency Hotel**. (B/L/D)

Friday, February 13: AURANGABAD: Today's touring begins at the cave temples of **Ellora**, carved out of a solid mass of rock by Buddhist, Hindu and Jain monks between the 5th and 13th centuries. Of the 34 temples, the **Kailasa Temple** is the most spectacular. Here the great masters chiseled away 3 million cubic feet of stone, leaving a monolithic temple of colossal proportions, yet sculpted as intricately as an ivory miniature. Considered one of the wonders of ancient art, it marks the transition from cave to temple architecture. (B/L)

Saturday, February 14: MUMBAI: Touring continues at the famed **Ajanta Caves**, which are set in a crescent hillside over a lush ravine. Theravada Buddhists carved these caves, perhaps as early as the 2nd century BC, and Mahayana Buddhists continued construction until the 7th century AD. The ancient craftsmen left miraculously preserved and vividly colored frescoes that tell the story of Buddha and portray life in India at that time. This evening we return to Mumbai and spend the night at the **Holiday Inn Airport Hotel**. (B/L)

Sunday, February 15: CHENNAI (Madras): A short flight brings us to **Madras**, the capital of Tamil Nadu, situated on the Bay of Bengal. Our touring today will include the **Government Museum** (providing it has reopened), with its exceptional Bronze Gallery, **Fort St. George** and **St. Mary's Church**. The day ends with a private performance of the famous **Bharata Natyam** dance. **Taj Coromandel Hotel**. (B/L/D)

Monday, February 16: CHENNAI: This morning we drive to **Mamallapuram**, where we will spend the day visiting its famous rock-cut shrines and Shore Temples. These temples are the earliest examples of monumental architecture in Tamil Nadu and are adorned with wonderful examples of Pallava art. Our last stop today will be the **Kalakshetra Academy**, where classical southern Indian music, dance and textile design and weaving are taught. (B/L)

Tuesday, February 17: TANJORE: A morning flight takes us to **Tiruchirapalli (Trichy)**, the former seat of power in south India. After lunch the full afternoon will be spent at the huge complex of **Ranganathaswamy Temple (Srirangam Temple)**. Surrounded by seven concentric walls, it has twenty-one gopurams and offers wonderful views from its walls. We continue to **Thanjavur** and overnight at the **Hotel Parisutham**. (B/L/D)

Wednesday, Thursday, February 18 & 19: MADURAI: We will visit the fine collection of Chola bronzes at the **Raja Museum** and the famous **Brihadeshwara Temple**, built by the Chola ruler **Raja Raja (AD 985-1014)**. After a Chettinad lunch, we depart for **Madurai**, the center of Tamil culture and the abode of the goddess **Meenakshi**. A high point of our tour will be our two visits to the great **Meenakshi Temple**, its gopurams carved with gods, goddesses and mythical figures, all restored to their original polychrome colors. Our first visit to this wondrous place will be after dinner Wednesday evening. The apparent pandemonium of the worshippers will begin to achieve some order as we witness weddings, people pleading for fertility and giving offerings to the favorite god **Ganesh**. **Taj Garden Retreat**. (B/L/1-D)

Friday, February 20: PERIYAR LAKE: Today we will take a break from ancient India by spending the late afternoon viewing the wildlife at **Periyar Game Reserve**. While relaxing in motor launches, we will look for the elephants, deer and marvelous birds as they come to the lake to bathe and drink. **Spice Village Hotel**. (B/L/D)

Saturday, February 21: COCHIN: Our morning drive takes us through lush tea plantations, thick forests and small villages of thatched houses to Kottayam, where we board a boat for a wonderful trip through the canals and backwaters to Allepey. We continue by bus to Cochin, the first European settlement in India. Brunton Boatyard Hotel. (B/L)

Sunday, February 22: COCHIN: Touring today includes the Mattancherry Palace, the still active spice-trading area formerly known as Jewtown, St. Francis Church, believed to be the oldest European-built church in India, the Cochin Museum and the synagogue, built in 1568, with its exquisite Chinese hand-painted, willow-pattern floor tiles. This evening we will attend a Kathakali dance performance. (B/L)

Monday, Tuesday, February 23 & 24: MYSORE: We fly to Bangalore and, after visiting some of the city's highlights, we transfer to Mysore. Tuesday touring includes Srirangapatna, the summer palace of Tipu Sultan, famed as the "Tiger of Mysore," the Maharajah's Palace, one of the largest and most splendid in India, the Chamundi Hills, and the lovely 13th-century Somnathpur Hoysala Temple. Wind Flower Spa & Resort. (B/L/D)

Wednesday, February 25: CHIKMAGLUR: Touring today will be to the many sites around Hassan, including the oldest and most important Jain pilgrimage center, at Sravanabelagola, the 13th-century Keshava temple at Belur and, at Halebid, the Hoysalesvara temple, with its lovely carved friezes depicting the Ramayana. The sculptural decorations of these temples are among the finest in India. Chikmagalur Taj Garden Retreat. (B/L/D)

Thursday, Friday, February 26 & 27: HOSPET: We drive to Hospet, a country town from which we will spend two days touring the extraordinary Vijayanagara ruins at Hampi. Founded in 1336 as the capital of one of the largest Hindu empires, it covered an area of several square miles and was surrounded by seven fortification walls. We will explore the temples, pavilions, bath complexes and palaces, studying the unique Vijayanagara style of art and architecture that has made Hampi a *World Heritage Site*. We will spend two nights at Mallige Tourist House, a simple tourist hotel. (B/L/D)

Saturday, February 28: BADAMI: After completing our touring, we drive on to Badami, located in a beautiful canyon, where we will visit its glorious rock-cut Chalukyan cave temples. Touring will include two of the Aihole Hindu temples and the archaeologically important 7th- and 8th-century temples of Pattadakal. Evidence of the long habitation of this area is the 6th-3rd century BC dolmen and menhir scattered among the temples. Badami Court Hotel. (B/L/D)

Sunday, March 1: HUBLI: After completing our touring, we drive to Hubli, where we will spend the night at the Hotel Naveen. (B/L/D)

Monday, Tuesday, March 2 & 3: GOA: We continue to Goa, which was founded as a Portuguese colony in 1510 and remained under Portuguese rule until 1961. Our oceanfront hotel is the Taj Ft. Aguada Beach Resort. Tuesday morning we will visit Old Goa's most important monuments, leaving the afternoon at leisure before our gala farewell dinner at the hotel. (B/1-L/1-D)

Wednesday, Thursday, March 4 & 5: MUMBAI: We fly to Mumbai, where we will have dinner before our flight home very early Thursday morning. (1-B/1-D)

Revisions to this program are mainly due to changes in the flight schedules of the internal flights, which may occur without notice. Travelers to India should be prepared to take these changes in stride and view them as part of the national culture.



COST OF TOUR: \$9725
(includes international and inter-India
group airfare from New York)

Single Supplement: \$2345

Land Arrangements Only: \$8365
(without international group airfare)

INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST:

Transportation: International flights on regularly scheduled IATA carriers and internal flights on Indian Airlines. All other travel by motor coach.

Hotels: In twin-bedded rooms with private bath as listed or similar.

Meals: All meals are included table d'hôte as listed. B – Breakfast L – Lunch D – Dinner.

Tips: All gratuities to guides, drivers and porters are included.

Not included in the tour cost: Visa fees, airport departure taxes, excess baggage charges, airport transfers for individuals not using group flights and items not on menus.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE: A maximum of one checked bag per person plus one carry-on bag that will fit under the bus seat. Maximum baggage allowance within India is 44 pounds.

TARIFFS: Based on a minimum of 23 participants and rates and costs in effect January 2008. Flights within India are ticketed locally and subject to change.

DEPOSITS & PAYMENTS: A deposit of \$800 per person is required to book. Final payment is due sixteen weeks before departure.

CANCELLATION: In the event of cancellation the deposit is refundable in full, less a \$300 handling fee, until sixteen weeks prior to departure. From sixteen until twelve weeks before departure, the penalty is \$800. From twelve weeks until four weeks before departure, the penalty is \$4,200, and from four weeks until departure, the penalty is \$6,200 plus any other penalties levied by hotels and operators, which could be as high as 100% for last-minute cancellations. There will be no refund for unused services once the tour departs. If the cancellation is made within 60 days before departure, the airlines require a penalty. **Insurance is available and is recommended. By purchasing trip cancellation insurance within 14 days of your initial deposit, Travel Insured International will waive the usual exclusion for preexisting medical conditions.**

A note about single rooms: For those traveling alone but who prefer to share with another, we will endeavor to work out congenial rooming arrangements. If impossible, or if a single room must be assigned due to the roommate's canceling or incompatibility, or for any other reason, even if at the last moment or while on the tour, the single supplement or prorate thereof must be collected.

RESPONSIBILITY: ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOURS, a division of LINDSTONE TRAVEL, INC., in accepting bookings for the tour, clearly stipulates that it is not liable for the faults or defaults of other companies and persons that may be used in the carrying out of the tour services; also for accidents, baggage losses, delays, strikes, political unrest, riots and acts of God and war. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of the passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operator. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the passengers. The right is also reserved to withdraw this tour; also to decline to accept or retain any persons as members of the tour. No refunds can be made for absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. IATA carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for acts, omissions or events during the time passengers are not on board. The contract in use by the companies concerned shall constitute the sole contract between the company and the purchaser of this tour and/or passengers.

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