

NORTHERN ILLINOIS SYNOD

INDIA *Tour*

& Companion Synod Visit to the Arcot Lutheran Church

January 13-25, 2008
13 Days

Extension Tour January 24-30, 2008



Hosted by
Bishop Gary Wollersheim
John Califf

Locally Hosted by
John and Esther Prabhakar



ITINERARY

SUN, 13 JAN Depart for India

Board your Lufthansa Airlines flight in Chicago today and fly transatlantic overnight to Germany. (Meals In-flight)

MON, 14 JAN In flight

Connect in Frankfurt this morning with the continuing flight to Delhi. (Meals in-flight)

TUE, 15 JAN Arrive in Delhi

Arrive in Delhi at 1:15 a.m. where a local guide will be waiting to assist with arrival and the transfer to your hotel. The hotel rooms have been pre-booked for check-in. Sleep in a bit and have breakfast at the hotel. Meet a local guide for a day of city sightseeing of old and new Delhi, the capital of India. (B)

WED, 16 JAN Delhi/ Agra/Delhi

After breakfast at the hotel, drive to Agra to meet a local guide. If time permits, visit Fatehpur Sikhiri en route. This afternoon visit the Taj Mahal, one of the seven wonders of the world. Return to Delhi for overnight. (B)

THU, 17 JAN Delhi/Chennai

Take an early breakfast at the hotel and transfer to airport for a flight to Chennai. On arrival in Chennai- John and Esther Prabhakar will meet and join the group at the airport. Embark on a half-day tour of Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu state. Some of the sites to visit: St. George's Fort Museum (the first British fort in India), St. Mary's Church built in 1680, Marina beach by the Bay of Bengal, San Thome Cathedral where the Apostle Thomas is buried, and the 13th century Dravidian style Kapaleeswar Temple. Enjoy dinner with the Prabhakars' artist cousin in his home near San Thome Cathedral. (B)

FRI, 18 JAN Chennai

Enjoy a morning at leisure. After lunch take coach to Mahabalipuram to see the rock hewn temples built by the Pallava Kings in the 7th century. Continue to Dakshina Chitra cultural heritage village. Learn of rural life in south India on a guided tour, see craft demonstrations and visit with the fortunetellers. There will be a folk performance followed by dinner. Return to your hotel for overnight. (B, D)

SAT, 19 JAN Chennai/ overnight train

After breakfast check out of the hotel and visit St. Thomas Mount where the apostle was supposed to have been martyred. The church was built in 1523 by the Portuguese. Meet John Prabhakar's brother at Shiloh Church for lunch with tsunami orphan children. Spend time shopping at Spencer's during the afternoon, then attend a late afternoon lecture at Gurukul Lutheran Seminary. End at the train station for embarkation on



Bishop Gary Wollersheim



John Califf



John and Esther Prabhakar

the overnight train to Kochi in air conditioned sleepers. (B)

SUN, 20 JAN Arrive Kochi

Arrive in Kochi at 6:45AM and transfer to the hotel for breakfast. Since check-in starts at noon, we will have two rooms to freshen up. Enjoy a half-day morning tour of Kochi visiting St. Francis Church (1510) where the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama was buried and later moved to Portugal by his grandson; the oldest Jewish synagogue (built in 1568); and the mid-16th century Dutch Palace. Time at leisure this afternoon before a two-hour sunset cruise through the harbor (dinner not served onboard). (B)

MON, 21 JAN Kochi/overnight train

Early breakfast and drive to Cranganore, also known as Kodungalore and Palayur, the farthest inland that Thomas was able to travel by boat. There is an interesting museum and a display showing what Thomas' boat might have looked like. In Cranganore there is a beautiful church near the site where Thomas is supposed to have landed. Inside the church is a relic said to be a bone from St. Thomas. Return to Kochi for dinner on own before boarding the train to Tirunelveli (Guruvayoor Express). Overnight on the train in air-conditioned sleepers. (B)

TUE, 22 JAN Arrive Tirunelveli-Palayamkottai

Arrive in Tirunelveli at 7:40AM and transfer across the river to Palayamkottai (home town of John and Esther). Visit Christian sites and schools started by English missionaries: Florence Swanson Christian school for the deaf, school for the blind, Christ church where Esther's father Rev. Dr. Kantayya worked, Clorinda's Church (oldest church in the Diocese), Holy Trinity Cathedral, and a family cemetery. Overnight at Hotel Aryaas in Tirunelveli. Hotel Aryaas (B)

WED, 23 JAN Tirunelveli-Palayamkottai

Enjoy a daytrip to the tip of the cape where the Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal meet. We'll have lunch at a beachfront hotel and there will be time to take a dip in the ocean. Return to Palayamkottai for a farewell dinner at the home of Esther's sister. Hotel Aryaas (B, L)

THU, 24 JAN Tirunelveli /Chennai-Departure or Tirunelveli /Tranquebar

After breakfast at the hotel everyone boards the Guruvayoor Express train departing Tirunelveli at 7:50AM. Those who are continuing their visit in India will disembark in Trichy at 1:45PM. Those who are returning to the U.S. will continue on the train to Chennai. Upon arrival in Chennai at 7:24PM a coach and guide will be waiting to assist with the transfer from the train station to the airport for flight check-in. The return flight departs after midnight at 1:50AM on January 25. (B)

FRI, 25 JAN Arrive U.S.

Connect in Frankfurt this morning with the continuing flight to Chicago. Arrive home this same day enriched with your many discoveries of faith and friendship in India. (Meals In-flight)

Code: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Itinerary subject to change.

EXTENSION BY INVITATION ONLY

THU, 24 JAN Tirunelveli /Tranquebar

After breakfast at the hotel everyone boards the Guruvayoor Express train departing Tirunelveli at 7:50AM. Disembark in Trichy at 1:45PM where a coach is waiting to transfer the group to Tranquebar. The first Lutheran missionary landed in Tranquebar in 1706. Check in for a one-night stay. (B)

FRI, 25 JAN Tranquebar/Cuddalore vicinity

After breakfast, take a half-day city sightseeing tour of Tranquebar, including the New Jerusalem Church and Danish Fort. Travel to Cuddalore to the Arcot Lutheran Church (ALC) headquarters where Bishop Gideon Devanesan is waiting to welcome the group. Check in for a four-night stay. (B)

SAT, 26 JAN Cuddalore/Pondicherry

Visit companion synod sites in Cuddalore/Pondicherry vicinity - programming arranged by Bishop Devnesan. (B)

SUN, 27 JAN Cuddalore/Pondicherry

Visit and worship at companion synod churches in Cuddalore/Pondicherry vicinity - programming arranged by Bishop Devnesan. (B)

MON, 28 JAN Cuddalore/Pondicherry

Visit companion synod sites in Cuddalore/Pondicherry vicinity - programming arranged by Bishop Devnesan. (B)

TUE, 29 JAN Cuddalore /Chennai-Departure

Say good-bye to your hosts and travel back to Chennai. Upon arrival in Chennai transfer to the airport this evening for flight check-in. The return flight departs after midnight at 1:50AM on January 30. (B)

WED, 30 JAN Arrive U.S.

Connect in Frankfurt this morning with the continuing flight to Chicago. Arrive home this same day enriched with your many discoveries of faith and friendship in India. (Meals In-flight)

Code: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Itinerary subject to change.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Round-trip economy class airfare from Chicago/O'Hare via an ARC/IATA approved scheduled carrier.
- Economy class airfare from Delhi to Chennai.
- Two nights overnight train in air-conditioned sleepers
- Second class, air-conditioned train fare from Tirunelveli to Tranquebar/Chennai.
- Eight nights accommodation in tourist and superior tourist class hotels, double occupancy.
- Breakfast daily, lunches and dinners as outlined in the itinerary; including one bottle of mineral water per person per meal.
- Transfers and transportation by deluxe, air-conditioned motorcoach.
- Six locally guided sightseeing tours as per the itinerary; entrance fees included.



San Thome Cathedral, Chennai

MAIN TOUR COST SUMMARY

\$3500

Group Flights from Chicago/O'Hare

Tour gratuities (\$46)Included
 Airport/Foreign Departure Taxes (\$340) ...Included
 Visa (\$70)Included
 Single room supplement\$335

very limited availability on request basis
GTD can assist in finding roommates;
however this cannot be guaranteed

EXTENSION COST SUMMARY

\$405

Tour gratuities (\$17)Included
 Single room supplement\$199

The tour cost is per person based on current airfare from Chicago/O'Hare (other cities available), double occupancy, tariffs and currency valuations as of April 2007, a minimum of 25 travelers (15 on the optional extension), and subject to confirmation. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed price and/or itinerary, they are subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. Single room supplements may have limited availability and are on a request basis only.

- Luggage handling of one piece per person at hotels.
- Experienced English-speaking local guides for meet & greet and departure assistance at airports and train stations.
- Gratuities to drivers and guides (for your convenience, \$46 per person has been included).
- Airport/foreign departure taxes (currently \$340 per person).
- India visa (fee currently \$70 per person) is required for U.S. citizens; GTD will assist with processing.

RESERVATION APPLICATION

PHOTOCOPY OR CLIP & MAIL

NIS India ~ January 13, 2008 (G#080102) ~ Group Travel Directors ~ 2000 West 98th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55431

Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____
as it appears on your passport

Address _____
no P.O. boxes, please

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone, Day () _____ Evening () _____

E-mail _____ Roommate _____

Advise if we can assign you a roommate or single supplement. GTD can assist in finding roommates; however, this cannot be guaranteed and the supplement may apply.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS (please check one)

- I/we will take the group flights from Chicago/O'Hare.
- I/we will need assistance with flight arrangements from _____ airport to join the group.
- I/we will make ALL of my own flight arrangements. (Please contact GTD for land-only rates.)

TRAVEL INSURANCE (please check one)

- To cover pre-existing medical conditions and other circumstances, I am mailing my insurance to Travel Insured the same day I mail registration to GTD.
- I decline insurance now, but understand I can purchase it later without the pre-existing waiver.

PRE-EXISTING medical conditions and other circumstances are covered
 when insurance is purchased at the time of reservation / deposit.
 Contact Travel Insured for more info.
800-243-3174

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

I have been invited to join the Extension Tour and accept the invitation.

Enclosed is my deposit payment of \$395 per person. Please make checks payable to Group Travel Directors G#080102.

I/we have read and understand the conditions of this brochure.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

- Comprehensive documentation including flight bag, bag tags, name tags, flight and land itineraries, destination literature, customs information, travel tips and more.

Items Not Included

- Fuel surcharges and/or tax increases levied since the pricing of this tour.
- Beverages other than coffee/tea at breakfast.
- Any meal or sightseeing item not listed in the itinerary.
- Items of a personal nature.
- Optional insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption is not included and highly recommended.
- Passport fees. A passport valid six months beyond date of reentry to the U.S. is required.

EXTENSION INCLUSIONS

- Five nights accommodation in tourist and superior tourist class hotels, double or multiple occupancy.
- Breakfast daily as outlined in the itinerary.
- Transfers and transportation by mini-coach.
- Gratuities to drivers (for your convenience, \$17 per person has been included).

Items Not Included

- Local guides.
- Any meal or sightseeing item not listed in the itinerary.
- Items of a personal nature.

NOTE TO OUR TRAVELERS

Please be assured that GTD continually monitors industry events, such as airline strikes and bankruptcies, etc. If any such events affect your tour, you will be notified. At the time this tour was developed there was not a U.S. State Department Travel Warning in effect for this destination; please refer to the following website for current information or call Group Travel Directors. http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

For more information contact:

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Email: jnscaliff@qconline.com

Or

Group Travel Directors
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Bloomington, MN 55431-2593
Tel: 952-881-7811 or 800-747-2255
Fax: 952-881-6276
Email: groups@gtd.org
www.gtd.org

TOUR CONDITIONS

OPTIONAL INSURANCE: Optional insurance for health, baggage and trip cancellation/interruption is not included and is highly recommended. The group leader or organization will be provided with a supply of insurance brochures to distribute to travelers (or travelers may visit the Travel Insured International website from the Links area of our website: www.gtd.org). In order to qualify for pre-existing conditions insurance coverage, travelers must send their insurance application and premium to Travel Insured International at the time the initial tour deposit is made.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: Your reservation and deposit of \$395 per person are requested immediately to fulfill the group deadline requirements. The group status will be reviewed September 10, 2007. Note that space is limited and reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis. Final payment by check is due November 9, 2007.

REFUND POLICY: All cancellations must be in writing. There is no refund for partial or unused land arrangements. Note: Airline tickets will be issued well in advance prior to departure and may be nonrefundable. The following penalties will apply: Up to October 9, 2007 - \$100 per person handling fee plus any unrecoverable deposits; October 10, 2007 - January 4, 2008 - Deposit plus any unrecoverable payments to hotels, tour operators or airlines; January 5, 2008 or after - No refund.

CHANGES TO GROUP FLIGHTS: Tour prices are based on roundtrip group air travel for the travel dates and cities shown. The group airfare contract for this tour may not allow travelers to make any date or itinerary changes. If you are considering other dates or cities, please submit your request in writing well in advance to secure the best rates and schedule, but no later than September 10, 2007. A minimum fee of \$100 per person will apply for changes to group flights. In the event the group airfare is too restrictive to accommodate your travel plans, you may wish to purchase the "land-only" portion of this tour and either ask GTD for personalized air assistance or make your own flight arrangements.

LATE BOOKINGS: Passengers registering within thirty days of tour departure will be charged a \$50 per person fee. Tour payment in full is required before we can request and confirm space. This fee does not cover any additional airline or ground service charges.

CONDITIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Group Travel Directors (GTD) provides customized travel planning throughout the world for group travelers who have a variety of reasons and goals for travel. The goals and/or opinions of these groups do not reflect or imply the position of GTD in any matter. Brochure contents may not be duplicated without permission from GTD. In offering these travel arrangements, Group Travel Directors, Inc. (GTD) acts solely as an agent for the sale of air transportation and other travel related services. GTD maintains no control over the personnel, equipment or operations of any entity furnishing services, products or accommodations. GTD assumes no responsibility or liability for, and shall not be expected, asked or required to pay for any injury, damage, expense, personal injury, property damage, inconvenience or any other loss experienced by reason of: (1) any intentional, wrongful, negligent or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any supplier, its agents or employees; (2) any defect, breakdown or other failure of any vehicle, equipment, service, product or other instrumentality which is owned, operated or otherwise used by a supplier; (3) any intentional, wrongful, negligent, or unauthorized act or omission on the part of any other party not under the direct control of GTD; (4) financial problems causing nonperformance by any supplier; or (5) any other cause, condition or event whatsoever beyond the direct control of GTD. GTD cannot guarantee any rates, bookings or reservations of any supplier. Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute a consent to the foregoing provisions. All prices quoted are subject to change if airlines or ground operators increase their prices, the U.S. dollar is devalued significantly against foreign currencies, the group falls below minimum numbers, or a fuel surcharge, government tax or user's fee is imposed. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. GTD reserves the right to withdraw from any tour any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the interests of the group as a whole. The above Conditions and Responsibility also includes Bishop Gary Wollersheim, John and Esther Prabhakar, John Califf, Northern Illinois Synod ELCA and its affiliates.