

# Kali Bharat Yatra Tour to South India and Dubai: A Wonderful and Unforgettable Experience

By Dr Tara Singh

**T**he 31st annual Bharat Yatra trip to India occurred between September 11th and September 29, 2014. This time though, the trip was arranged to cover South India as well as the popular Arab state of Dubai. What's remarkable about the tourists on this trip was that almost everyone had gone to India at least once. One woman said that she had gone to India 5 times before. It was clear that the tourists are very experienced in international travel. Prior to their embarkation at JFK Airport, a social ritual (torch lighting, travel tips and messages) was conducted to prepare the tourists for a safe and enjoyable tour.

The tourists visited Kolkata which was also the first capital of British India. Included in the tour were visits to Chennai with its famous Victoria Memorial; Madurai—a major city of Tamil Nadu and the home of the Meenakshi Temple; Rameshwaram—an important pilgrimage center for both Shivaite and Vaishnavites; Kanyakumari—the world renowned rock memorial of Swami Vivekananda in the sea; Kerala—having the famous sea resort of Kovalam; Alleppey—often referred to as the

“Venice of the East” because of its numerous waterways; Cochin—referred to as the Gateway of Kerala; and Dubai—popularly known as a shopper's paradise and for its thrilling ride through the desert.

Says the trip Coordinator Bibi and her husband Abdul: “India has a mixed culture of art, religion and philosophy. It accepts people from all over the world with her secularism. One can immediately feel the bliss of nature in the state of Kerala. The widely extended beautiful beaches of Kerala and the house boat cruise with overnight stay, were an amazingly surreal experience. The scenic beauty is simply breathtaking. Dubai is an

awesome place but it kinda makes you accustomed to luxury. It's an ultra modern city buzzing with activity all through the day and night as well as all through the year. The majestic Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque is located in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates UAE). It is arguably one of the most important ex-



Group leader Bibi Karim with partial group members in luxury coach.

amples of contemporary Islamic architecture in the UAE.”

Vejai states: “I am still in holiday mood. Our trip was magnificent and I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. It was educational and it endeared



At JFK Departure

L to R Pastor Dabe Dr. Tara Singh, Shivanji Maini former Miss India USA and Miss Bollywood Devas in Shash, Pt. Ramlall, Tour Director of KT&T, and Bibi Karim, group leader.

India to me even more. I felt I belonged there when the security allowed us to enter the Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Trivandrum, where only Hindus are allowed to enter. Lord Vishnu's idol is etched in my memory for a long time to come .”

trip to North India. The South India people are very warm and friendly and we felt like we belonged to India. When we went to Rameshwaram that was a beautiful sight to behold. Sunset at Kanyakumari was excellent and the next morning sunrise was an amazing sight with prayers being heard over loud-speakers and seeing the small fishing boats going out to sea. The houseboat in Alleppey that was equipped with such “luxury” as running water and electricity, was a wonderful experience. In Cochin we were happy to see the Chinese fishing nets and I was lucky enough to be on one of the boats to pull the rope for the nets. Kerala is so beautiful with all the coconut trees and flowers. Dubai is a very progressive country with beautiful new buildings and lots of construction. Our side trips to Abu Dhabi was excellent The mosque there is exceptional. We will always recommend Kali Travel for India trips.”

Brihaspati Azeez (Lovin) notes: “Thank you again Kaliji for the best experience on my first trip to South India and Dubai. What made it special was that my sister was with me again as well as our friends from our last

Soomintra Persaud says: “This is not the first time I went to India through Kali Travel & Tours; indeed this was truly a unique combination of South India and Dubai. I had a great



The romantic house boat in Alleppey

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Harry Persaud and Vijay Sahedeo demonstrate to the Yatrans "let's hanging in there".



Abdul and Bibi Karim in a romantic mood with flowers in their hands a symbol of love.



Yatrans find time to take a break as they pose for a group photo

time to see the Swami Vivekananda Memorial Rock on the Sea. The experience in Dubai was really awesome." According to Radhika Sanichar: "Kaliji did an excellent job, very good arrangements, excellent hotels and delicious food, plus the houseboat which combined to make a great experience. I will convey this to my friends and relatives in Canada. Also, we had time to visit a few South Indian Temples. I cannot forget the safari experience in Dubai, it was simply great!" And Indira Mahadei observes: "In the beginning of the announcement of this tour my boss was a bit reluctant to give me time off to go, but after this South India and Dubai experience I realized how much I would have lost. I visited India through Kali Bharat Yatra before but this tour was unforgettable. The camel ride and the Safari experience still linger in my mind. Thanks to Kali-ji for making this possible, not only for me but for all of us."

In the words of Diawatee Devi Ramkaran, "this was the best tour to India; my sister Seeta Shiwlochan and

I had a terrific time. The food was enjoyable. We found South India very interesting. Dubai is a very modern country and has its own charm." Julie Misir, a recording artiste, complimented Kaliji for making such a unique package tour of South India and Dubai. "My sister Gamatie Singh and I would never forget this experience. South India is different from North India where I spent a few months but this combination is very special and at the same time, educational." Hari Persaud remarks; "I made it a point to congratulate Kaliji to make this tour of South India and Dubai possible. I enjoyed everything about this unique combination." Vishnuchan Shiwlochan says that he went with Kali Bharat Yatra/KT&T to India and even to Europe. "Kaliji has a good knowledge of planning his tours in style, with good sightseeing, and good hotel accommodation, lavish food and of course good entertainment. I enjoyed South India and Dubai immensely."

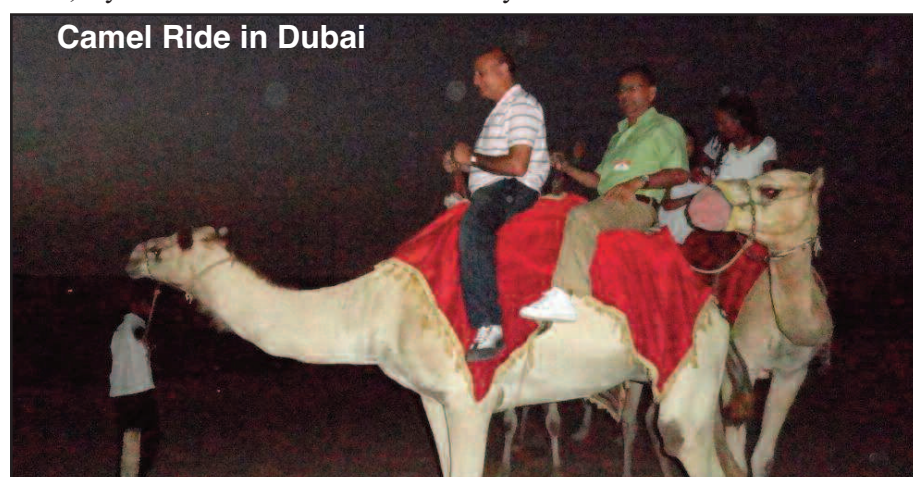
Seegobin Ragnauth offers some key advice to Kali Travel and Tours:

"Kaliji, your choice of places to visit was very well put together! The choice of hotels was not so great, especially in Dubai. I think all fees for the transportation of luggage from point A to point B should be taken into consideration up-front and charged in the initial cost of the tour. Information and communication should be mostly accurate. Maybe you are doing a great job at your end but the other end is loose. It surely needs tuning I apologize if I come over too negative but these are some of the things I observed and thought you could use as bench-mark for future tours, and like I mentioned earlier, Kali Travel and Tours should be the BEST tour agency."

However, like most of the other tourists Chaitram and Ahilia Surujnarine share this view of the trip: "We really enjoyed the trip; it was very well put together, especially our time in Kerala and Dubai. Despite the little hiccups, altogether it was exciting; For the most part, the hotel accommodations and other coordinated

travel arrangements were excellent. Kaliji did a great job in putting together this itinerary which was implemented with the assistance of my dear sister Bibi. Both Bibi and Abdul went over and above to ensure that everyone was taken care of. There could have been better coordination. It appeared that although Bibi was the "leader," she was not given all the necessary information ahead of time to advise the others, and this caused some frustration, especially on her part. Nevertheless, it was a great tour and we would do it again..We have been to North India and now South India and Dubai with Kaliji and we are totally satisfied and happy, and looking forward to the upcoming European tour next year. "

Kali Bharat Yatra Travel and Tour next trip to India is on October 15, 2014 for 16 days to North India. And early next year another Kali Bharat Yatra Tour is scheduled from March 27, 2014 to April 9, 2014. Some members of NYGM will also be on this latter tour.



Camel Ride in Dubai



Cross section of Yatrans at a Popular Mosque in Dubai