

XX Conference of the Heliconia Society International in India

Managed by Sanyog Tours Private Ltd.

Registration form here:

<https://goo.gl/HtwuTW>

and at www.heliconia.org

Conference

August 4, 2018 - August 07, 2018

Single Occupancy \$1150 + GST

Double Occupancy per person \$850 + GST

Triple Occupancy per person \$800 + GST

Day-1 Saturday Aug 04th

Pick up to participants from Cochin (COK) International Airport. Conference participants arrive in Kumarakom. In the evening relax on back water and canal ride in Vembanad Lake. Night halt at Kumarakom.

The jewel in the crown of **Kerala - God's Own Country** - is the pristine, tropical city of **Kumarakom**. This cluster of small picturesque islands around the **Vembanad Lake**, with its beautiful landscapes, picturesque canals, backwaters and lagoons & scenic environs is a perfect holiday spot.

It was described as the **Venice of the East** by Lord Curzon. The palm fringed canals and shores bustling with glimpses of day-to-day life in the countryside, the mirror still lagoons, picture book lakesides and its long sandy beach has blessed **Kumarakom**. This water locked district has become one of the best Backwater tourism destinations in God's Own Country. The large network of canals provides **Kumarakom** its lifeline.

Water carnivals using the gigantic snake boats and the country canoes of varying sizes have an important role in the community life of the people of the district. The soil found in the region is fertile, the numerous paddy fields, mangrove forests, and coconut groves stand testimony. The lush greenery is an amazing sight and is a treat for the eyes. Thousands of migratory birds flock to this area every year. Bird watchers flock here each year to catch a glimpse of the various birds visiting the island. This beautiful island has numerous small fishing skiffs throughout the town. With both saltwater and freshwater surrounding **Kumarakom**, there are several varieties of fish found here. Excellent marine and freshwater fish including tasty karimeen (also known as pearl spotted fish), shrimp, and prawns are available in the area, making it perfect for enjoying a lip smacking seafood platter. **The backwaters** are a unique web of lakes, lagoons, canals and rivers, which form an integral part of the touristic scenario of Kerala. The journey through waterways that traverse past picturesque villages. Fields brimming with ripe paddy. Rows and rows of swaying coconuts palms. Watch Kerala life, its amazing.

Day-2 Sunday Aug 05th

After breakfast, full day conference.

In the evening leave for beach resort to enjoy the gala dinner.

Day-3 Monday Aug 06th

Full day conference.

In the evening local cultural programme. Night halt at Kumarakom.

Day-4 Tuesday Aug 07th

Participants depart for home or for Post Conference Tour. Those participant, who are leaving India after conference, will be dropped at Cochin (COK) International Airport, Those who are willing to Join Post Tour will be picked up for next destination. Conference ends happily, with great information and business contacts.

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Pre Conference Tour **28 July 2018 to 04 August 2018**

Single Occupancy \$1200 + GST
Double Occupancy per person \$950 + GST
Triple Occupancy per person \$850 + GST

Day-1 Saturday July 28th

Welcome to India in Mumbai!

You will be met by a Sanyog tour representative at the airport & provided with information regarding your stay. Check into the Hotel Golden Tulip or Golden Chariot or Similar. (42 kms- 1 hr.) from airport. Night halt at Hotel .



Mumbai Airport

Day-2 Sunday July 29th

After breakfast we will visit Tropica Farms of our conference hosts, Mr. Ravindra & Mrs.Minal Patil. They have developed a collection of Zingiberales over almost 25 years, specializing in heliconias. Following the tour we are invited to lunch at the Patil residence, beautifully decorated, and old bungalow with modern amenities .

After lunch we will visit Saish farm of HSI members Mr. Vikas & Mrs. Vandana Vartak. High tea at the farm & return to hotel. Night halt at Hotel.



Tropical Farm of Mr. Ravindra Patil

Day-3 Monday July 30th

After breakfast, departure to Coimbatore by Air India. Flight No. AI- 657 at 11.05 hrs. It arrives Coimbatore at 12.50 hrs. After lunch proceed to Udhagamandalam / Ootacamund, popularly known as Ooty, a beautiful hill station situated at an altitude of 2268 mtrs. above sea level.

It is a collage of luscious tea gardens, hills and cliffs, forests, sporting spots, parks & gardens, lakes and waterfalls. Ooty is alluring, vibrant and mesmerizing; a haven on the hills. On the way visit Farm or Sim's Park garden in Coonoor. Check into Hotel Gem Park or similar. Evening will be at leisure. Night halt at Ooty.



Ooty (Oothagamandalam)

Day-4 Tuesday July 31st

After breakfast, leave for Ooty- Coonoor local sightseeing, including the botanical garden spread over 55 acres. Lush green well-maintained lawns, rare tree species like the cork tree, the paper bark tree and the monkey puzzle tree, a 20 million year old fossilized tree. The garden has a wide variety of plants, including different types of roses, rare flowering bushes and a fern house with vast range of ferns and orchids.

We continue to Dodabetta Peak, the highest point in the district, and Ooty Lake, artificially formed by John Sullivan in 1823-25. After lunch visit a local farm where we enjoy high tea. Night halt at Ooty.



Botanical Garden, Ooty



Dodabetta Peak



Ooty Lake

Day-5 Wednesday Aug 01st

After breakfast departure to Kabini (155 kms- 4 hrs.)

In the evening, take a jungle ride in Rajiv Gandhi national Park, Nagahole. Night halt at Kabini.

Day-6 Thursday Aug 02nd

After breakfast take a river cruise in Kabini river. The park and animal life is part of the country's first 'biosphere reserve.' One can be sure of seeing elephant, spotted deer, sambar, barking deer, wild boar, mongoose, peacock, jungle fowl and many other birds and animals.



Kabini River

After brunch departure to Mysore (45kms- 1 hr). We will visit Chamundi Hill, Chamundeshwari Temple and Mysore Maharaja Palace. Mysore is the 2nd largest city of state Karnatak. The city is nestled at the base of Chamundi Hill. Shri Chamundeshwari Temple, on the crest of the hill, dates to the 11th century. Near the temple is statue of Mahishasura, the demon slayed by the goddess Chamundeshwari. Half way up the stone steps is the 4.8 meter high monolith of Big Nandi, Lord Shiva's mount.



Big Nandi, Lord Shiva's mount and Sri Chamundeshwari Temple

The Mysore Maharaja Palace was designed by the English architect Henry Irwin. The three storied structure in the Indo-Saracenic style was built between 1897-1912. The Durbar Hall with its ornate ceiling and sculpted pillars and the Marriage Pavilion with its glazed tiled flooring and stained glass, domed ceiling are worth noting. Intricately carved doors, the golden howdah (elephant seat), paintings, as well as the fabulous, jewel-encrusted golden throne are amongst the palace's other treasures.

There after proceed to Bangalore. Night halt at Bangalore.



Mysore Maharaja Palace

Day-7 Friday Aug 03rd

After early morning visit to KR market return back to hotel. After breakfast, leave for sightseeing and visit to Lalbagh Garden and Visvesvaraya Technological Museum. Bangalore is also called a garden city of India. This city has beautiful park, gardens and tree-lined avenues. Lalbagh Gardens, laid out by Hyder Ali in 1760 in the heart of Bangalore,

is amongst India's most beautiful botanical parks. The garden has almost 1000 species of rare plants and herbs. There is a glass house depicting London's Crystal Palace and this is the main center of attraction.

After lunch, visit Farms in around Bangalore city. Night halt at Bangalore.

Day-8 Saturday Aug 04th

After breakfast, proceed towards Bangalore Airport to board the Air Asia, flight no. I5- 1124, which departs for Cochin at 12.05 hrs. arriving at 13.00 hrs. Lunch on the way at Hotel Crowne Plaza or similar. Proceed to Kumarakom (90 kms.- 2 hrs.). In the evening relax on back water and canal ride in Vembanad Lake. Night halt at Kumarakom.



KR market

Lalbagh Garden

Be ready for the **XX Conference of the Heliconia Society International**, in India, a great opportunity to meet and greet members of our society.

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Post Conference Tour

07 August 2018 to 12 August 2018

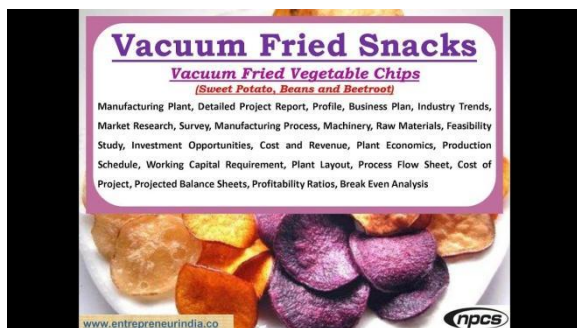
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Day-1 Tuesday Aug 07th

After breakfast, Departure to Malappuram (210 kms.- 7 hrs.). Lunch on the way. Reach Malappuram & visit jack fruit processing factory and if possible visit a spice factory . Thereafter leave for Kozikode(Calicut) (35 km-1 hrs). Night halt at Raviz Resort & Spa, Kadavu.



Jack fruit processing

Day-2 Wednesday Aug 8th

After breakfast visit to Heliconia farms (Pics). Afternoon lunch at River Side with live cooking. Thereafter visit to Nilambur Teak Museum. (The only teak museum in the world) Night halt at Raviz Resort.



Nilambur Teak Museum

Day-3 Thursday Aug 9th

After breakfast departure to Wayanad (65 kms.- 2 hrs.). Wayanad is explicitly beautiful with mist clad mountains, intense forests and fertile green plantations. The forests of Wayanad are cosmic landmasses for animals to enjoy their natural dwelling. Snuggled amidst the Western Ghats Mountains, Wayanad is one of the exquisite hill stations of Kerala. Wayanad shelters endangered species and it has an amazing range of flora and fauna. Wildlife aficionados and nature lovers will find Wayanad wildlife sanctuaries the right place to visit. Having an influential in early human history, much numerous evidence of depicting new Stone Age civilization is seen in the Wayanad hills. Enjoy the forest and Ayurvedic Spa in Vythiri Resorts. Night halt at Wayanad.



To Wayanad Hill Station

Vythiri Resort

Day-4 Friday Aug 10th

After breakfast departure to Madikeri (Coorg) (130 kms.- 3 hrs.). Coorg is an endless expanse of scenic beauty - lush green valleys, coffee plantations, and majestic mountain ranges. After an evening tea, visit Abbey Falls. A big attraction for tourists and filmdom alike, is the Abbey Falls, 8 kms. from Madikeri. Even during the summer there is plenty of water in these falls. The roar of the falls can be heard from the main road, from where a path goes through lovely coffee and cardamom plantations right up to them. The chirping of innumerable birds which are easier heard than seen, fill the air with sweet music. Do remember to take your binoculars and camera when you go there.

Will also visit Madikeri Fort, Raja's Seat, and Omkareshwar Temple. Night halt at Madikeri (Coorg).



Scenic beauty



Abbey Falls

Day-5 Saturday Aug 11th

After breakfast leave for Dubare Elephant Camp which is an elephant capturing and training camp of the Forest Department at the edge of Dubare forest. The largest land animal is captured here with the help of tamed elephants and local tribals - the Kurbas - and is held captive for up to 6 months in large teak wood cages.

The tamed elephants attend to various jobs during the day and in the evenings they come down to the river to bathe and to be scrubbed clean by their mahouts. You can watch elephants been given a scrub-bath in the river and also watch how oil is applied on their forehead and tusks and other aspects of elephant grooming. Eager tourists can request free elephant rides within the camp.

We will also visit Cauvery Nisargadhama and Bylekuppe. The Golden Temple in Bylekuppe is a home for thousands of Tibetans living in exile and a center for Tibetan Buddhism in South India. The spectacular Golden Temple is also a major tourist spot in the area. Golden Temple monastery is the main tourist attraction in Bylekuppe. Stepping inside the temple feels like walking into another world, and the noisy streets of South India suddenly seem very far away. Three beautiful golden Buddha statues, each 40 feet tall, namely Padmasambhava, Buddha and Amitayus, look down at visitors from above the altar. The walls are adorned with colourful paintings depicting gods and demons from Tibetan Buddhist mythology. The altar is decorated with flowers, candles and incense, and small birds nesting amongst the golden statues fly happily around the temple. This place is a very calm and majestic sight, surrounded by its landscaped gardens.

Return to the hotel. After lunch visit to Spice Plantation and farms. Night halt at Madikeri.



Dubare Elephant Camp



Bylekuppe

Day-6 Sunday Aug 12th

After breakfast departure to Bangalore (International Airport) (262 kms.- 8 hrs.) for flights home. We will be leaving for the airport with enough time to be there 3hrs. before departure. Kindly note that, your return journey flights should be departing Bangalore (Bengaluru) Airport after 09,00 pm

Its happy ending of your visit to India. We are sure that, you will love India, Indian Culture, People of India and ofcourse.....Gods gift.....Nature of India. Visit again, we, Indians are always there to welcome you. We always say....Atithi Devo Bhav.....means Guests are Gods for us.

Members of Heliconia Society International, India

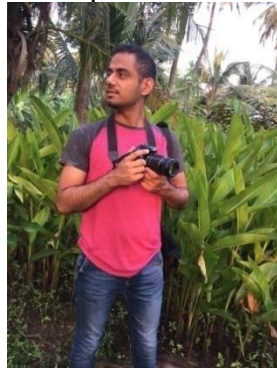
We are confident you will enjoy everything India has to offer. For those who also wish to continue exploring Indian wonders, we offer extension tour at extra special prices to HSI members that are sure to amaze you. Please let us know & we will gladly make the arrangement.

For additional information, please contact us on heliconia.sanyog@gmail.com

Sanyogtours@gmail.com, swapnatravel@gmail.com

During your trip you will be joined by Abhay Mhatre & Sandeep Bhujbal who will make sure your every need is met. Below are the short bios of our team & Anurag Patil as a Photographer.

Anurag Patil: - A dynamic youth with experience of a wildlife, nature & night life photography with knowledge of zingiberales species is sure to make your trip enjoyable.



Abhay Mhatre: - Engineer by education and raised in a farmer family with more than 30 years of experience in the tourism industry.



Sandeep Bhujbal :- A Director of Sanyog Tours Pvt. Ltd., With a career span of more than 20 years in the tourism industry. Assuring to provide comprehensive holiday experiences with best of quality service and true value for money. We look forward to welcome you in India.