

Indian Champions League 2009: Tour 2 – “Difficult Two” Tour First Two Qualifying Matches and Final plus cultural excursions

All this from only £2,649* per person inclusive!

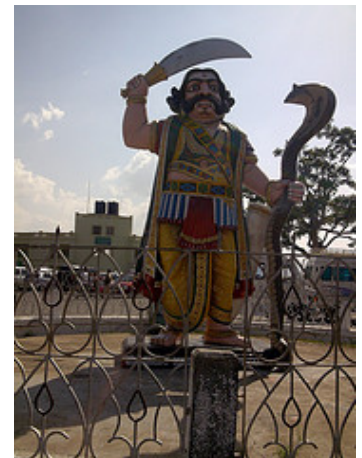
based on 2 people sharing in 4 accommodation. Further discounts for 15+ travelling in a group!

The ‘Difficult Two’ Indian Champions League tour package includes:

- 15-night tour on a double/twin room basis, inc breakfast (single supplement available – see prices below).
- Direct return International flights to Hyderabad with British Airways
- All listed domestic flights with Kingfisher Airlines
- All air-conditioned transfers stated between airports and hotels and excursions
- All air-conditioned transfers between hotels and match venues for each game
- English speaking guides for all sightseeing and entrance fees to monuments as per itinerary
- Sound and light show ticket in Hyderabad
- Guaranteed standard (mid range) Grand Stand Match tickets for each game for each venue
- All sightseeing and activities included in the itinerary,
- Howzat Travel Approved Local Agent
- All taxes (except any airport taxes)

Not Included:

- Indian Visa
- Any meals except those specified in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature or the cost of optional / suggested tours and activities
- Use of rooms before/after normal check in/out times
- Individual’s travel insurance (we recommend EssentialTravel.co.uk for all your travel-related arrangements)



Full tour itinerary follows

► International Flights

Outbound: British Airways Flight 277

Fri, 9 Oct London Heathrow Airport - Hyderabad Begumpet Airport
Depart:14:30 Arrive: 04:40 (9hr 40min)

Inbound: British Airways Flight 276

Sat, 24 Oct Hyderabad Begumpet Airport - London Heathrow Airport
Depart: 06:35 Arrive: 12:15 (10hr 10min)



► Hotels

5* Hotel Option

Date	No of Nights	City	Hotel
09 – 12 Oct'09	03 Nights	Hyderabad	Taj Banjara
12 – 14 Oct'09	02 Night	Bangalore	Lalit
14 – 16 Oct'09	02 Nights	Mysore	Regalis
16 – 17 Oct'09	01 Night	Hassan	Taj Gateway
17 – 19 Oct'09	02 Nights	Hospet	Mallagi Tourist Home
19 – 20 Oct'09	01 Night	Badami	Badami Court
20 – 22 Oct'09	02 Nights	Bijaipur	Madhuvan International
22 Oct'09	01 Night	Gulbarga	Sun International
23 – 24 Oct'09	01 Night	Hyderabad	Taj Banjara

4* Hotel Option

Date	No of Nights	City	Hotel
09 – 12 Oct'09	03 Nights	Hyderabad	1 Continent
12 – 14 Oct'09	02 Night	Bangalore	37 th Crescent
14 – 16 Oct'09	02 Nights	Mysore	Regalis
16 – 17 Oct'09	01 Night	Hassan	Southern Star
17 – 19 Oct'09	02 Nights	Hospet	Mallagi Tourist Home
19 – 20 Oct'09	01 Night	Badami	Badami Court
20 – 22 Oct'09	02 Nights	Bijaipur	Madhuvan International
22 Oct'09	01 Night	Gulbarga	Sun International
23 – 24 Oct'09	01 Night	Hyderabad	1 Continent

► Tour Itinerary

Saturday 10 Oct'09

After clearing the customs and immigration formalities, proceed towards the arrival hall, where you will be met by our Representative and accorded a traditional Indian Welcome, assistance and a transfer from the airport to your hotel.

Surrounded by huge pre-historic rocks and built around a lake, Hyderabad is the capital of Andhra Pradesh, a curious blend of the fairytale and the earthy, a blend of the old and the new. Today, together with its twin-city Secunderabad, it is one of the largest cities in India. Medieval Indian, Saracenic, Mughal and colonial architecture create an exuberance and richness, rarely found in other parts of the country.

● **Early evening, depart hotel to the cricket ground to witness the ICL 20 – 20 cricket match**

Late night return back to the hotel

Sunday 11 Oct'09

Morning excursion to Golconda Fort. Founded in the 13th century, it was rebuilt by the Qutab Shahis, who in 1525 made it their capital. It was they who laid out its splendid monuments and parks, and designed the famous acoustic system by which a handclap sounded at the gates can be heard right up at the citadel.

After lunch drive past **Charminar**, located in the heart of the old city, this magnificent edifice built by Sultan Mohammad Quli Qutab Shah, is the unique symbol of Hyderabad. A small mosque is located on the roof of the edifice. All around the Charminar is a bustling bazaar of pearl and jewellery shops, perfume and attar dealers. Close by is the Laad Bazaar or the bangle alley with rows of shops selling lacquer and glass bangles.

Later visit **The Salar Jung Museum** reputed to be the world's largest one-man collection, houses around 35,000 antiques and art objects collected by Salar Jung III, the former Prime Minister of the Nizam. The 36 halls of the museum display an intriguing array of treasures. These include the finest crystal and porcelain, an assemblage of statues that include the veiled Rebecca, Margarita, Mephistopheles, miniature paintings, illuminated manuscripts, fabulous jewelled weapons, including the Empress Nurjehan's dagger and the Nawab's own diamond-encrusted sword, priceless collection of jade, ivory and bronzes and a fascinating variety of clocks. The most important historical exhibits are the turban and ivory chairs of Tipu Sultan of Mysore.



Monday 12 Oct'09

Breakfast at the hotel.

Later departure transfer to airport in time to board Kingfisher flight for Bangalore.

Flight: Kingfisher Airlines No.IT - 3434

Depart: Hyderabad 0925 hrs

Arrive: Bangalore 1025 hrs

Meeting assistance on arrival at the airport and transfer to hotel

Bangalore, according to state historians, got its name from Bendakalooru (the town of boiled beans) after a king strayed into the area during a hunting trip in the late 14th century. A woman offered him a meal of boiled beans which the king enjoyed so much that he named the town after the dish. Bangalore is a transliteration of the original spelling, according to state historians.

Early afternoon, depart hotel to the cricket ground to witness the ICL 20 – 20 cricket match

Late night return back to the hotel

Tuesday 13 Oct'09

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning visit the **Bull Temple**, built in the Dravidian style over a monolithic bull, presumably by the founder of the city Kempa Gowda. See the Summer Palace of Tipu Sultan and the botanical gardens of Lal Bagh laid out by Hyder Ali, the ruler of Mysore, in the 18th century, covering 240 acres with a wide variety of exotic trees and plants. It has a glass house, built on the lines of the Crystal Palace of London, which is the venue for fruit, flower and vegetable shows twice a year. The magnificent post-Independence government building - Vidhan Soudha is a landmark in modern construction. Built in 1954, it is of granite, in the Neo-Dravidian style of architecture and houses both the legislatures and the secretariat.

Afternoon free for independent activities.

Wednesday 14 Oct'09

After breakfast, drive to Mysore (approx 3 ½hrs) and enroute visit Srirangapatnam, 14 kms before Mysore – Bangalore - Mysore highway, was once the capital of the warrior-kings Hyder Ali and his son Tipu Sultan. The Summer Palace built of teak in 1784 in Indo-Saracen style has ornate and beautiful frescoes. It is now a museum and tells eloquently of Tip's valour and his valiant battle against the British. The Fort holds within its precincts a mosque and the Permanganate temple dedicated to Vishnu.

Continue drive to Mysore and check in at the hotel.

Mysore was the political capital of the **Wodeyar Dynasty** which ruled the state of Karnataka for some 150 years till the independence of the country from the British. These kings were great patrons of art and culture and Mysore was the cultural capital of the south under the rule of the Wodeyars. The word Mysore expands to "Mahishasurana Ooru" which means the town of Mahishasura. The story goes that the demon Mahishasura was killed by Goddess Chamundeshwari atop the



Chamundi hill near Mysore, and hence the name. Ever since, the Mysore royal family has worshipped Chamundeshwari as the palace deity. Hills dedicated to her stand at the eastern end of Mysore town today. To the people of India the word Mysore is synonymous with Sandalwood, silk and fine inlay-work using ivory. It is the home of incense sticks (agarbathi) dipped in sandalwood oil perfume base.

Evening free for independent activities.

Thursday 15 Oct'09

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning Excursion to **Somnathpur**. Built around 1260 AD, the Somnatheswara temple is at Somnathpur - 33 kms East of Mysore. The walls of the star-shaped temple are literally covered with superb sculptures in stone depicting various scenes from the Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavad Gita and the life and times of the Hoysala kings. No two friezes are alike.

Afternoon proceed on a city tour visit the **Mysore Palace**, built in 1912 in the Indo-Saracenic style, exudes a grandeur that is unmatched. The Golden Royal Elephant throne, the Durbar Hall, the Kalyana Mandap and the Gallery are the main attractions here. Drive up the **Chamundi Hill**, 13 kms away. Halfway up is the **Nandi Bull**, a 4.8m monolith. Right on top is the 2000 year-old **Chamundeswari** temple, dedicated to the patron goddess of the royal family.



Friday 16 Oct'09

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning drive to **Hassan (115 kms)** enroute visiting **Sravanabelagola**.

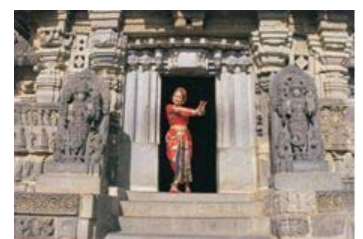
Shravanabelagola, 51 kms southeast of Hassan, this is one of the most important Jain pilgrim centers. Here is the 17 m high monolith of Lord Bahubali - the world's tallest monolithic statue. Thousands of devotees congregate here to perform the Mahamastakabhisheka - a spectacular ceremony held once in 12 years, when the 1000 -year- old statue is anointed with milk, curds, ghee, saffron and gold coins. The next Mahamastakabhisheka will be held in 2005 A.D.

Hassan (194 kms from Bangalore), the quiet and peaceful town is a convenient base to visit Belur and Halebid.

Afternoon proceed on an excursion to **Belur and Halebid**.

Belur (38 kms from Hassan) is located on the banks of the river Yagachi. It was once known as Dwarasamudra, the capital of the Hoysala Empire between the 11th and 13th centuries. Today it is known for its exquisite Chennakeshava Temple built in the 12th century, the only living temple of this region

The temple is one of the finest examples of Hoysala art and architecture. The facade of the temple is filled with intricate sculptures and friezes with no portion left blank. Elephants, episodes from the epics, sensuous dancers, they are all there, executed with intricate workmanship - beautiful and awe-inspiring.



Visit the temples of **Halebid (17 kms east of Belur)** - like those of Belur - bear mute testimony to the rich, cultural heritage of Karnataka. The Hoysaleswara temple, dating back to the 12th century, is astounding for its wealth of sculptural details. The magnificent temple is guarded by a Nandi Bull – was never completed despite 86 years of labour. The Jain basadis nearby are equally rich in sculptural detail.

Saturday 17 Oct'09

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning drive to **Hospet (300 kms)** enroute visiting **Chitradurga Fort** is renowned for its Kallina Kote / Ukinna kote / Elu Suttina kote which was built in parts by the Palegar Nayakas, Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan. It comprises a series of seven enclosure walls in Kannada. Eighteen ancient temples can be found inside the fort. This seemingly impregnable fort has 19 gateways, 38 posterior entrances, a palace, a mosque, granaries, oil pits, four secret entrances and water tanks.



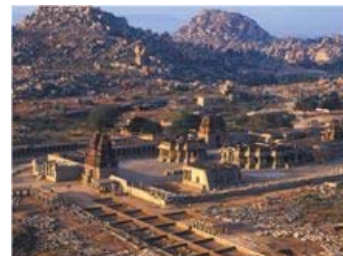
Continue drive to Hospet (200 kms / 4 ½hrs) This is a long journey, through essentially good roads, so we recommend an early start. On arrival check in at the hotel.

Sunday 18 Oct'09

Breakfast at the hotel

Late morning depart for an excursion to Hampi, ending with views of the sunset from the glorious Vitthala temple, a fitting finale to the Deccan adventure. If dreams were made out of stone, it would be "Hampi". Classified as a World Heritage Center and is one of the major tourist destinations in India. Hampi, the seat of the famed Vijayanagara Empire was the capital of the largest empire in post-Moghul India, covering several states.

The Vijayanagara Empire stretched over at least three states -Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh. The destruction of Vijayanagar by marauding Moghul invaders was sudden, shocking and absolute. Although in ruins today, this capital city once boasted riches known far beyond the shores of India. The ruins of Hampi of the 14th Century lies scattered in about 26 sq. km area, amidst giant boulders and vegetation. Protected by the tempestuous river Tungabhadra in the north and rocky granite ridges on the other three sides, the ruins silently narrate the story of grandeur splendor and fabulous wealth. The splendid remains of palaces and gateways of the broken city tells a tale of man's infinite talent and power of creativity together with his capacity for senseless destruction. A visit to Hampi is a sojourn into the past. Most of the important structures and ruins are located in two areas, which are generally referred to as the Royal Centre and the Sacred Centre.



Evening witness **Sound and light show** inside the temple complex

Monday 19 Oct'09

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning drive to **Badami (150 kms / 04 hrs)** to discover the domain of mighty Hindu empire that flourished here in ancient and medieval times. Once capital of the powerful Chalukya dynasty that ruled the Deccan during the 6th & 7th centuries, its treasures are a cluster of superbly carved lakeside temples and the magnificent sculptures on display at the Archaeological Museum.

Enroute visit **Aihole** to observe the wonders of **Temple Architecture** followed by a visit to **Pattadakal** to experience the world heritage sights.

Aihole is acclaimed as the "Cradle of Hindu Temple Architecture". Aihole has over a hundred temples scattered around the village. The most impressive one is the Durga Temple with its semi-circular apse, elevated plinth and the gallery encircling the sanctum. The oldest temple here is the Lad Khan temple dating back to the 5th Century. The Hutchimalli Temple out in the village - has a sculpture of Vishnu sitting atop a large cobra. The Revalphadi Cave - dedicated to Shiva - is remarkable for its delicate details. There are hundreds of temples strewn in the villages nearby.

Pattadakal, with its beautifully chiseled temples is a World Heritage Site located on the banks of the Malaprabha River. It bears testimony to the richness of the Chalukyan architecture. Pattadakal reached its pinnacle of glory under the Chalukyan Kings and was once used as a ceremonial center where kings were crowned.

Continue drive to **Badami (15 kms / 40 minutes)**.

Picturesquely situated at the mouth of a ravine between two rocky hills, the exquisite sculptures and the rust red sandstone cliffs of **Badami** tell many a tale of yore. Climb a flight of steps to reach the four ancient rock-cut caves replete with carved pillars and bracket figures, all hewn out of red sandstone on the precipice of a hill. The largest of them is the third cave, dedicated to Lord Vishnu. The first sculptural embellishment to dazzle the eye is the 18-armed Nataraja striking 81 dance poses in the first cave. Overlooking the caves is the Agastya Theertha Tank, its banks dotted with a cluster of Bhoothanatha temples.

Arrive Badami and check into the hotel rooms. Evening at leisure to explore the local bazaar at you own.

Tuesday 20 Oct'09

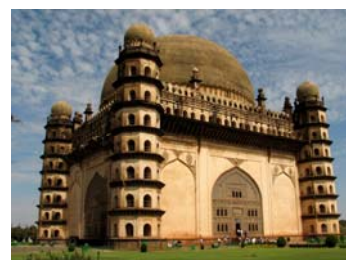
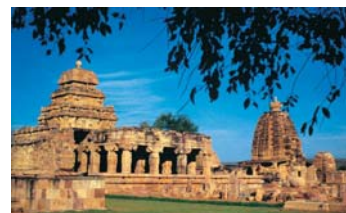
Breakfast at the hotel

Morning, visit **Badami's cave temples**, magical in the early morning light. These caves are an example of Indian rock-cut architecture, especially Badami Chalukya Architecture, are at Badami, a town in the Bagalkot District in the north part of Karnataka, India. Badami, the capital of the Early Chalukyas, who ruled much of Karnataka in the 6th to 8th centuries, lies at the mouth of a ravine with rocky hills on either side and a town tank in which water from the ravine flows. The town is known for its ancient cave temples carved out of the sandstone hills above.

Later drive to **Bijapur (150 kms/ 03 hrs)**.

Bijapur, the city of victory was the capital of the Adilshahi dynasty from 1489 to 1686 A.D. One among the confederacy of five states which saw the eclipse of Hindu rule in the south, the Bijapur kingdom played a significant role in the history of Karnataka by its contribution to art and architecture and by propagating Islam in the land. The main attraction of the city is the well-known Golgumbaz. Dominating the landscape of Bijapur is its hemispherical dome that is believed to be the world's second largest.

This city experienced a great burst of architectural activity under the Adil Shahi dynasty. The Adil Shahis encouraged building activity to such an extent that Bijapur itself has over 50 mosques, more than 20 tombs and a number of palaces. The city abounds in mosques, mausoleums,



palaces and fortifications. These art heritages of Karnataka appear starkly simple when compared to the exuberance of the Chalukyan and Hoysala architecture but are rated as some of the finest Islamic architecture in the world. Bijapur came under Muslim influence, first under Allaudin Khilji, the Sultan of Delhi, towards the end of the 13th century, and then under the Bahamani kings of Bidar in 1347.

Arrive Bijapur and check in to the rooms.

Wednesday 21 Oct'09

The eclipse of the Bahmanis saw the emergence of the enlightened Adil Shahis as the Deccan's premier dynasty and Bijapur was their architectural jewel. Within and outside the mighty citadel are splendid Palaces, Mosques and Tombs, highlighted by the superbly proportioned Ibrahim Rauza, the Gol Gumbad tomb and the magnificent Jami Masjid, which make Bijapur much more than "the Agra of south India" that it is sometimes called.

This day will be dedicated discovering these jewels of Bijapur.

Golgum baz; The tomb of Mohammed Adil Shah, the most important attraction in Bijapur boasts of the second-largest tomb in the world. 44 m in diameter. The interior of the dome is mysteriously unsupported and has a whispering gallery under it, whose acoustics are superb. The architecture of this building is unique with the four minarets being the four staircases leading to the top dome. Located in the northeastern part of Karnataka, Bijapur used to be the home of the Bahamani Sultans the most illustrious of whom was the Adil Shah. Adil Shah began the task of building his own tomb, quite earnestly and went on with this work for over 20 years.



Further to the edge of the city is the **Ibrahim Roza**, a beautiful tomb with artistically laid out corridors and interconnecting buildings with richly decorated walls and perforated stone windows. Ibrahim Roza, the mausoleum of Ibrahim Adil Shah II, is said to have inspired the Taj Mahal in Agra. At the centre of the town are large arches signifying the forts and its beauty in moonlight. Even though many of the structures were damaged by Aurangazeb, Bijapur remains a must see town.

Also visit **Gagan Mahal** built by Ali Adil Shah I around 1561 to serve the dual purpose of a royal residence and a durbar hall. Taj Bawdi a water tank that commemorates Taj Sultana, Ibrahim Adil Shah II's wife. Its front is made up of a majestic arch flanked by two octagonal towers. At the last visit Malik-E-Maidan , the largest medieval cannon in the world is 14 ft long, weighing 55 tons. It means king of the plain. It was cast and brought to Bijapur in 1549 as a war trophy. Legend has it that if you touch the gun and make a wish, it will come true!

Thursday 22 Oct'09

Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning drive to **Gulbarga (125 kms/03 hrs)** en route visiting **Firuzabad Fort**.

The ruins of **Firuzabad**, a palace city founded in 1400 by Firuz Shah Bahmani, is located on the east bank of the Bhim River. The main attractions here are the massive stone walls with quadrangular bastions and arched gateways. The town preserves two structures – the Jami Masjid and a two storeyed audience hall. You can also see the remains of



the royal baths (*hamams*), with pyramidal tombs and fluted domes.

Continue drive to **Gulbarga (26 kms/ 45 minutes)**. The original capital of the Bahmanis before their migration to Bidar, Gulbarga is dominated by the massive fort, once described as “an iron fist in an iron land”.

Gulbarga, the largest district in Karnataka, is a land where the past melds with the present. This historically rich region of the Deccan has been part of a number of kingdoms, prominent among which are the Rashtrakutas and the Bahamanis. A treasure home of architectural delights, Gulbarga is justly famous for the grandeur of the many Indo-Saracenic monuments that dot the landscape. Making it a destination that takes one back through the pages of history.

Arrive **Gulbarga** and check into the room.

Afternoon proceed for a city tour visiting Gulbarga Fort, Jumma Masjid, Chor Gumbaz, Sath Gumbaz. **Gulbarga Fort**; said to have been build originally by Raja Gulchand of Warangal and later strengthened by Ala-ud-din Bahaman. The Fort, occupying an area of 20 acres with a circumference of 3 km has a double fortification with a 30 ft moat between the walls and reflects a blend of West Asian and European military architecture. Later, visit the “**Grand Mosque**” built in 1367 inside the Fort. Resembling the mosque at Cardova in Spain, the Jumma Masjid covers an area of over 38,000 sq.ft. Five large domes and 250 arches add to the beauty of this mosque, which displays a strong Persian touch in its architecture.

Late night after dinner departure transfer to Railway Station in time to board train for Hyderabad

Friday 23 Oct’09

Train: Hyderabad Express

Depart: Gulbarga 0030 hrs

Arrive: Hyderabad 0555 hrs

Assistance on arrival at the Railway Station and transfer to hotel.

Rest of the day at leisure for independent activities.

● **Early evening, depart hotel to the cricket ground to witness the Finals of ICL 20 – 20 cricket match**

Late night return back to the hotel

Saturday 24 Oct’09

Early checkout and transfer to International Airport to board flight home.

► Tour Costs

Howzat Travel – ‘Difficult Two’ Tour

Hotel	Twin/Double	Single	Group 15-20
5* Option	£3,199	£4,549	£2,999
4* Option	£2,799	£3,799	£2,649

**PLEASE CALL HOWZAT TRAVEL TODAY ON
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