

Bombay -
Calcutta

Routes of the Golden



RIGHT across the Great Peninsula, Bombay to Calcutta is at present the longest (1041 St. miles) non-stop flight in India. Connecting the two greatest Indian cities, at one end is the Gateway of India and at the other, the most important junction linking the Far East with the rest of Asia and the West.

A Goddess of the Koli fisherfolk of the Western coast — Mumbai or Mumba Bai — gave her name to the city of Bombay which was originally a group of rocky islands connected to each other and the mainland by narrow channels and swampy creeks. With channels filled in and swamps and shallow bays reclaimed from the sea, the island city is now so linked with the mainland, as to give the appearance of an out-jutting port — and that is what it is even to the inhabitants of Greater Bombay, the strings of suburbs stretching along the coastline and into the interior from the main Fort



area, adjoining the harbour.

With its background of the East and its daily contact with the West, Bombay offers a variety of attractions to the visitor — from a nostalgic horse-drawn victoria driving along the pearl necklace waterfront and yacht sails curtsying far out in the bay to the ancient cave temples of Elephanta, Karla and Kanheri carved out of the side of hills sloping to the waters' edge.

After a few minutes flight over thickly wooded green hillocks of the Western Ghats we cross into Deccan plateau. Shortly we are flying over the area between Aurangabad and Daulatabad and its 13th century fortress built on a huge isolated conical rock of granite, 2250 cft. above sea level. Standing out prominently in front of the rock fortress, is



the famous Chand Minar, a minaret built in Persian Style, from where steps lead to the citadel on the top of the granite hill. The fort is hewn out of

solid rock—a marvellous tribute to the skill and patience of its builders.

From Daulatabad the Ellora caves are only

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Eagle

13 miles. These cave temples display Buddhist, Brahmanic and Jain works. The rock-hewn Kailasha temple at Ellora is certainly one of the noblest Hindu memorial of ancient India. The Ajanta caves 65 miles away from Ellora contain the world famous frescoes and some exquisite sculpture.

Crossing the



thin strip of the Wardha river we fly south of Wardha famous for the ashram where Mahatma Gandhi lived. Then we pass over the hilly and wooded districts of Central India inhabited by aboriginal tribes living largely an isolated life of their own. Having crossed

into Orissa, we next pass almost over Sambalpur which is famous for its silk, textile and paper industry. Further north in Bihar is Jamshedpur — the Steel Town. This is the rich mineral belt and industrial area of Eastern India.

The Mahanadi further north of Sambalpur is the river whose waters are being harnessed at Hirakud where one of India's largest dams is being built. Here we cross over to the West Bengal flying north of Kharagpur, famous for its railway workshops and its technical institute. The Hoogly soon appears

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in view and we have arrived at Dum Dum, one of the most important airports in Asia — as Calcutta is one of the leading ports in the East.

In spite of the transfer of the Capital to Delhi in 1911, Calcutta remains the premier city of India. As you land, the most prominent sights are the huge expanse of green known as the Calcutta Maidan, the all-marble Victoria Memorial built on the style of the Taj Mahal and the Cantilever bridge over the river Hoogly which replaced the pontoon bridge in 1943. On a clear day may be seen by the river, further north, the famous temple of Kali, destroyer of evil, at Dakshineswar and on the opposite side, the magnificent Hindu monastery of Belur Math, the headquarters of the Ramakrishna Mission, which viewed from different angles, resembles a church, a mosque and a temple.

A bustling city, Calcutta has different attrac-

tions for people of different interests. Its riverfront, its gardens and lakes, its justly famous zoo and museum, its Chinatown, its nightlife—all



have their own appeal.

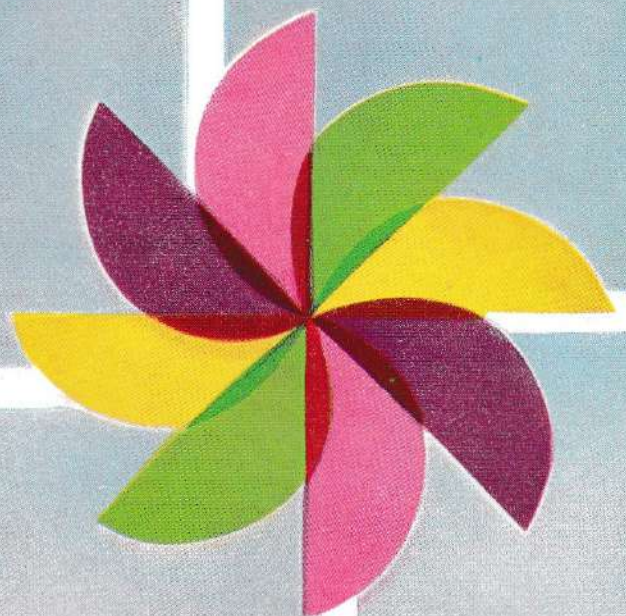
*Over the Rock-hewn
temples of
Ellora*



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